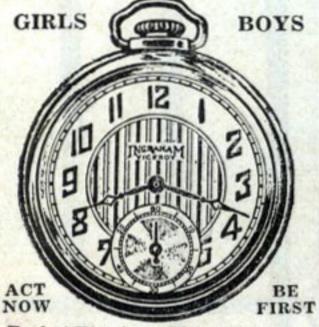






Genuine 22 Caliber Rifles, 1000 Shot Repeater Daisy Air Rifles (with tube of shot), Regulation Footballs, Excel Movie Projectors (sent postage paid). Boys-Girls latest model Bicycles (sent express charges collect). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. SIMPLY GIVE art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon for starting order. WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-A, TYRONE, PA.

PREMIUMS or CASH



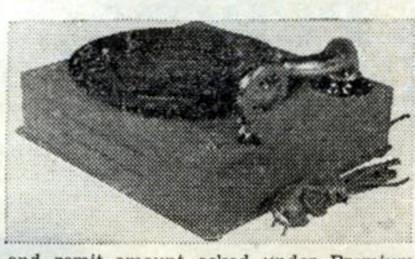
Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Alarm Clocks (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. SIMPLY GIVE art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Be first. We are reliable. Wilson Chem, Co., Dept. 103-B, Tyrone, Pa.



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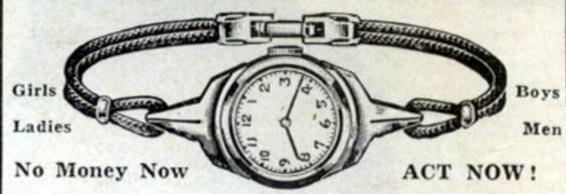
to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents

SALVE easily sold



a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid to start. Our 53rd year. We are reliable. Write or mail coupon for starting order sent postage paid by us. We trust you. WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-C, TYRONE, PA.

PREMIUMS



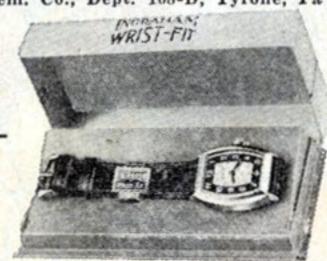
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PREMIUMS - CASH GIVE

GIRLS-BOYS-LADIES-MEN - Lovable, fully dressed Dolls over 15 inches in height, Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission easily yours. SIMPLY GIVE art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE and remit per catalog sent with starting order. Be first. Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 108-D, Tyrone, Pa

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NOW

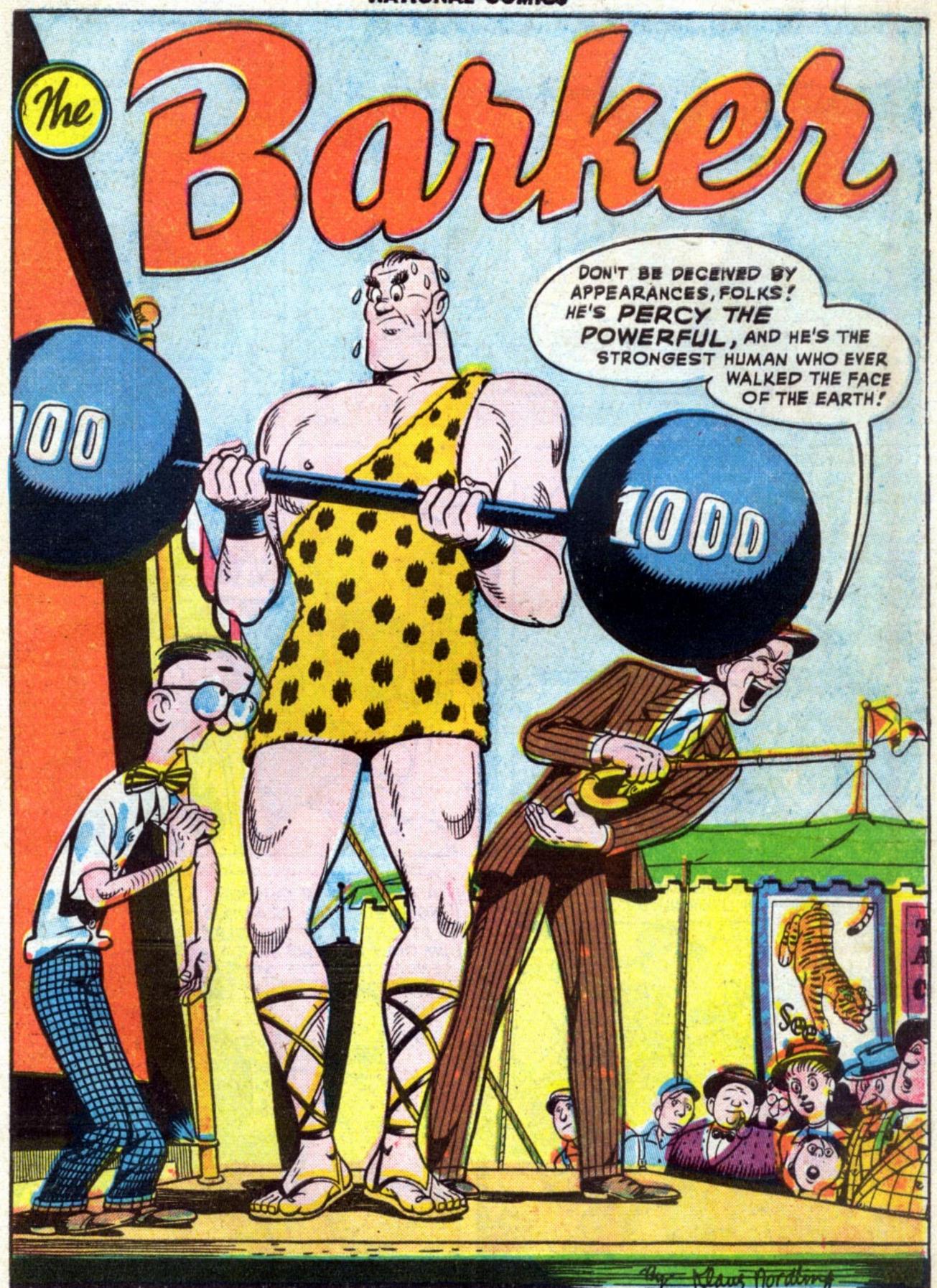


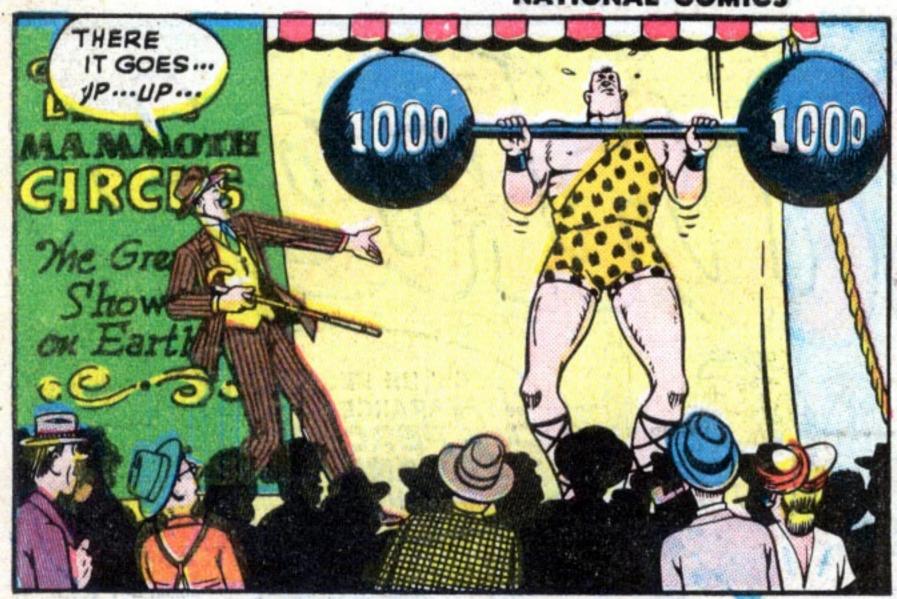
Mail Coupon Today

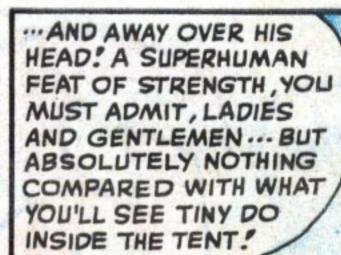
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NAME	AGE
ST	R.D BOX
	ZONE No. STATE
Write or paste coupon on	postal card or mail in an envelope

NATIONAL COMICS, December, 1948, No. 69. Published bi-monthly by Comic Magazines, 8 Lord St., Buffalo, N. Y. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. E. M. Arnold, General Manager. George E. Brenner, Editor. Yearly subscription (6 copies) \$1.00. Foreign \$1.50. Entered as second-class matter March 22, 1940, at the Post Office, Buffalo, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 25 West 45th St., New York City. E. S. Murthey, Advertising Representative. F. E. M. Cole & Co., 605 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago, III., Western Representative. Copyright 1948 by Comic Magazines. Printed in U.S.A.

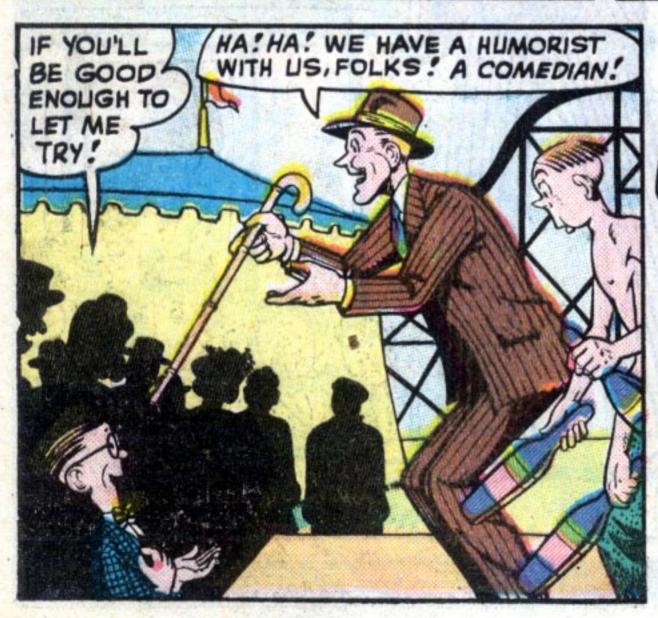






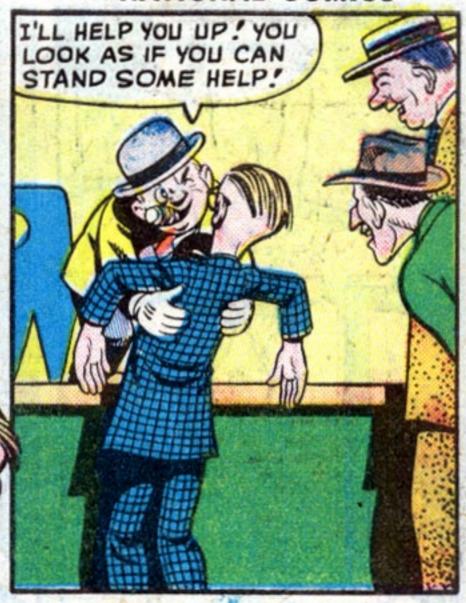




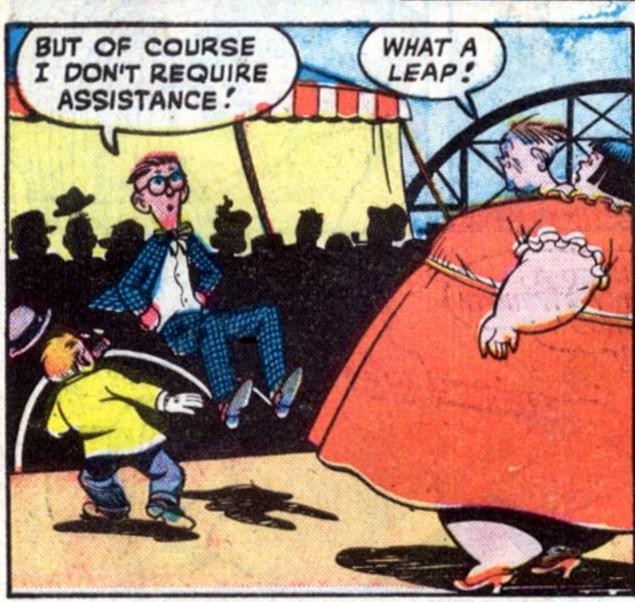


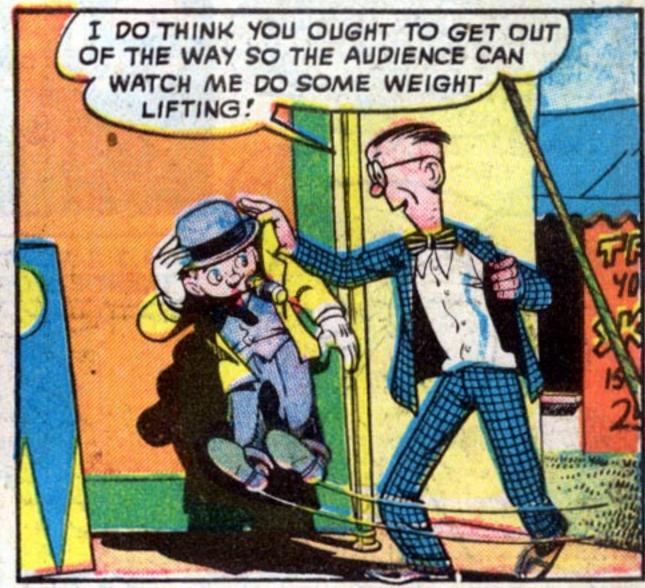


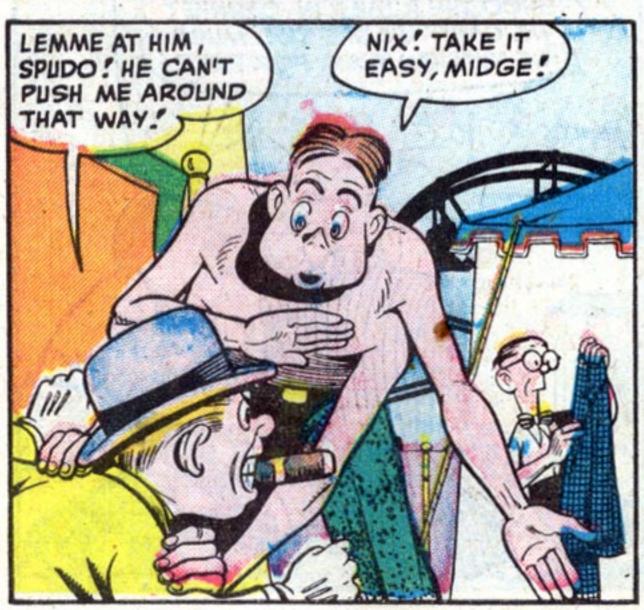


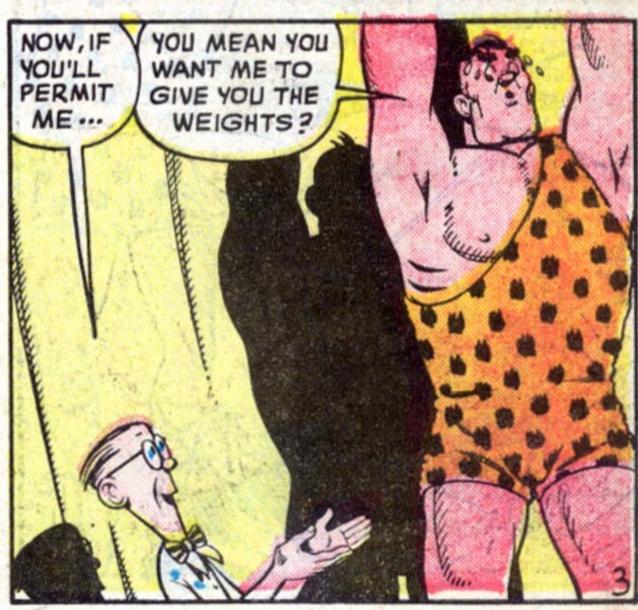


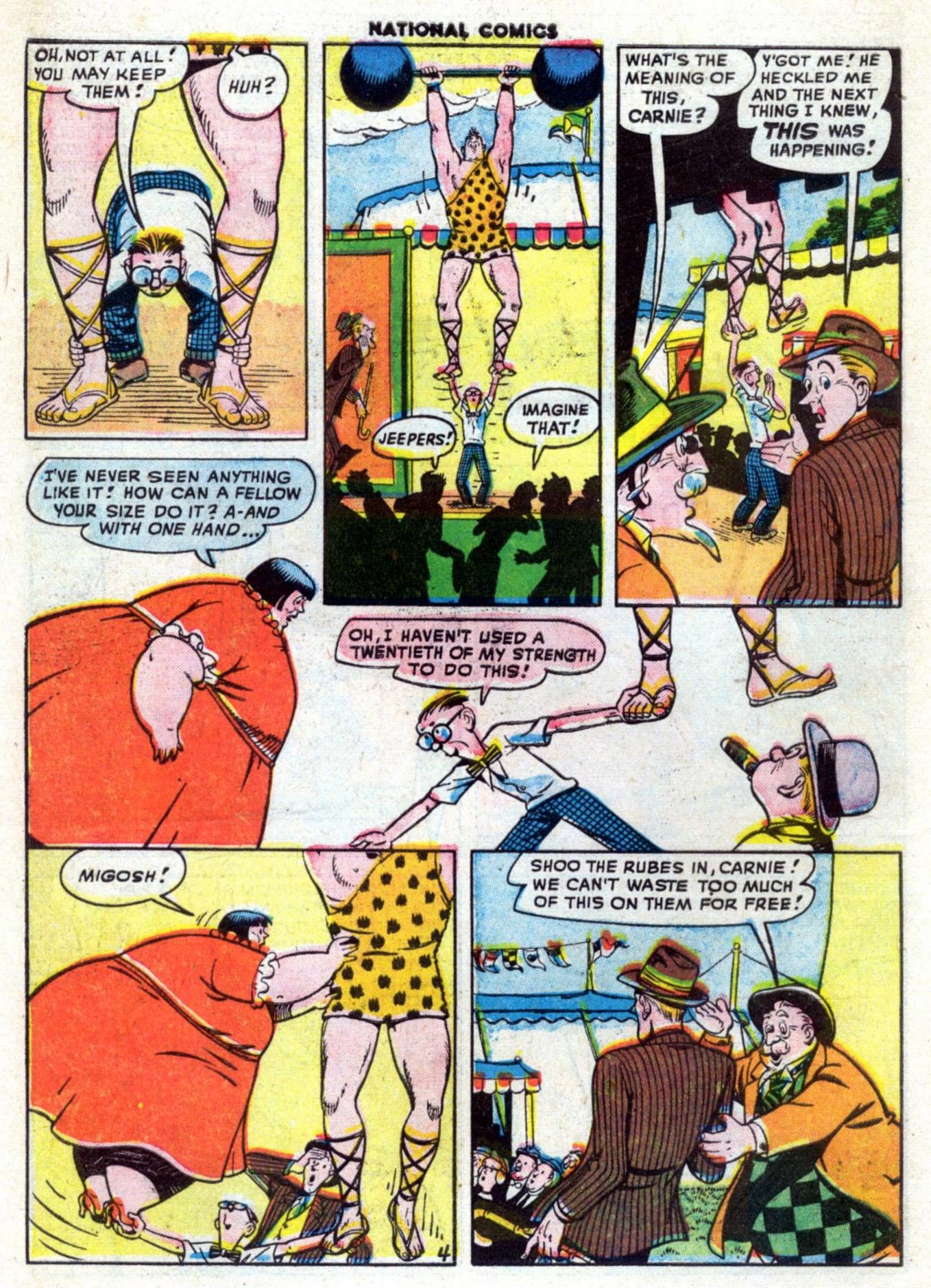


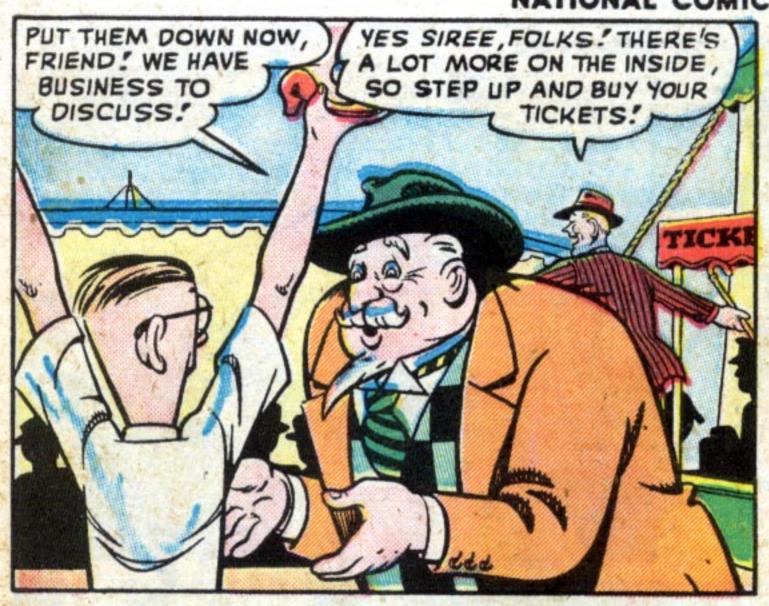
















WON'T BE SORRY!

I'LL DRAW UP THE

CONTRACT RIGHT

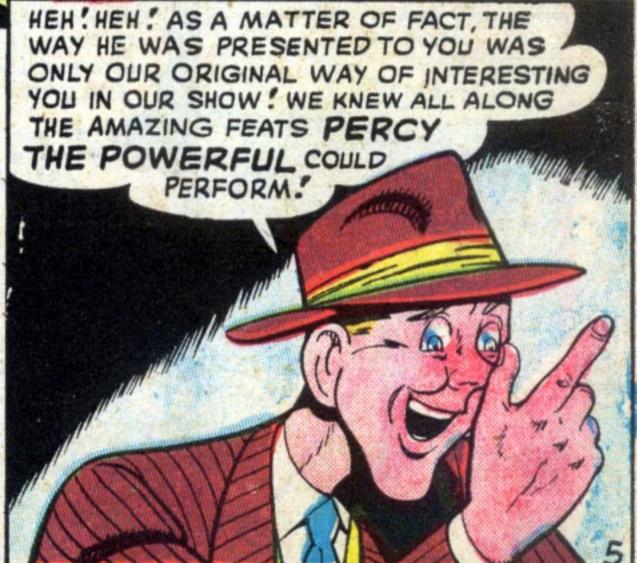
AWAY! GO TO

WORK!

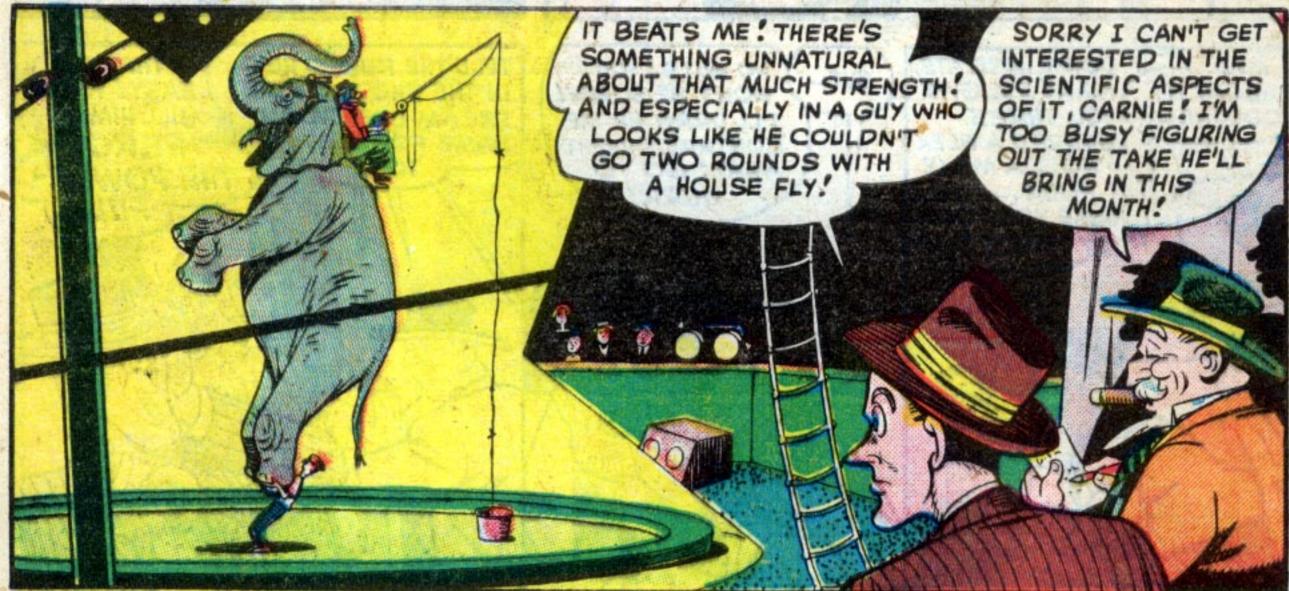


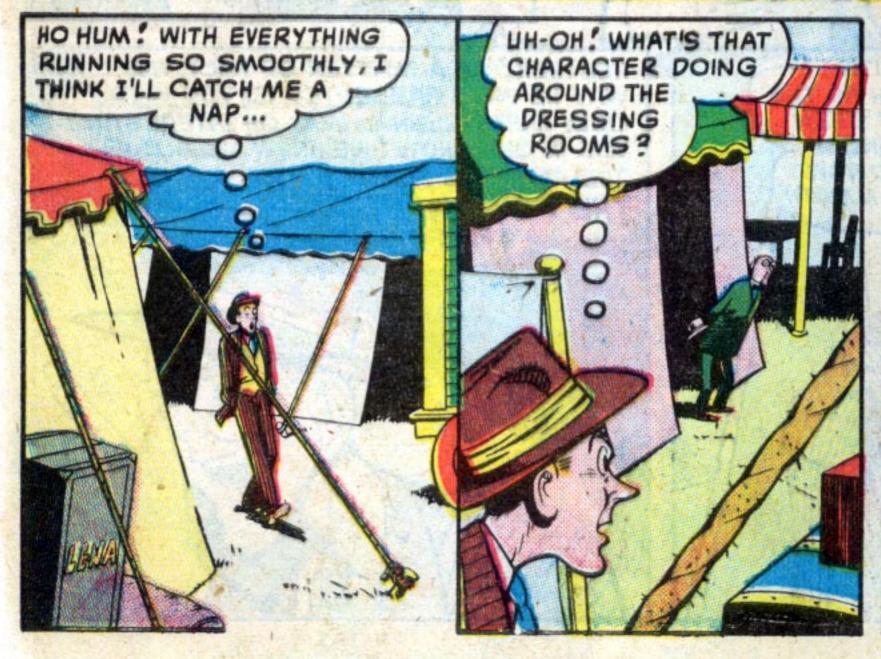


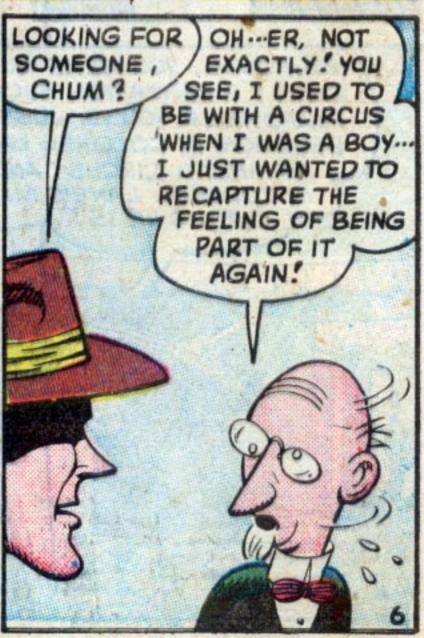








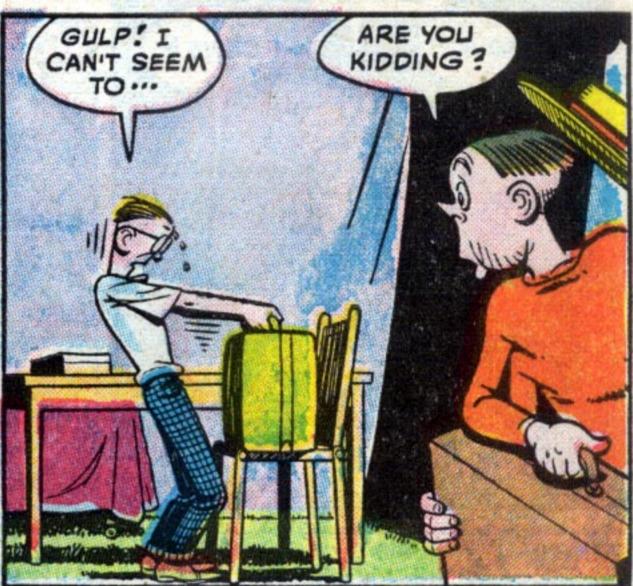


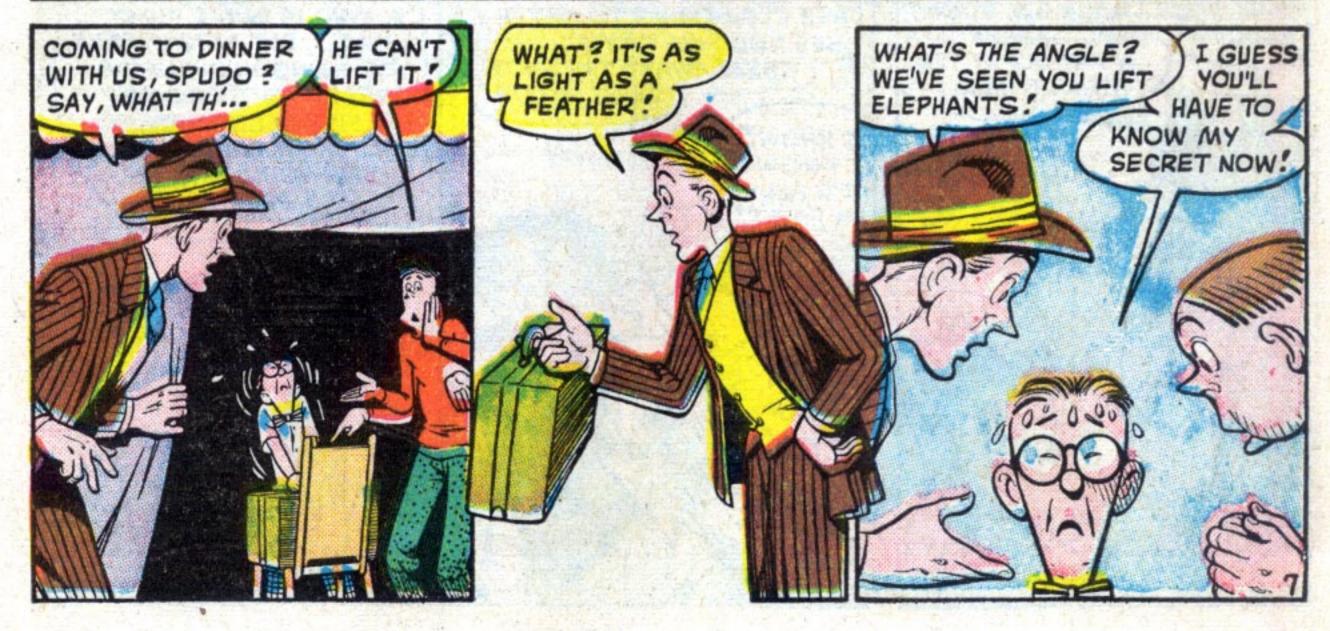


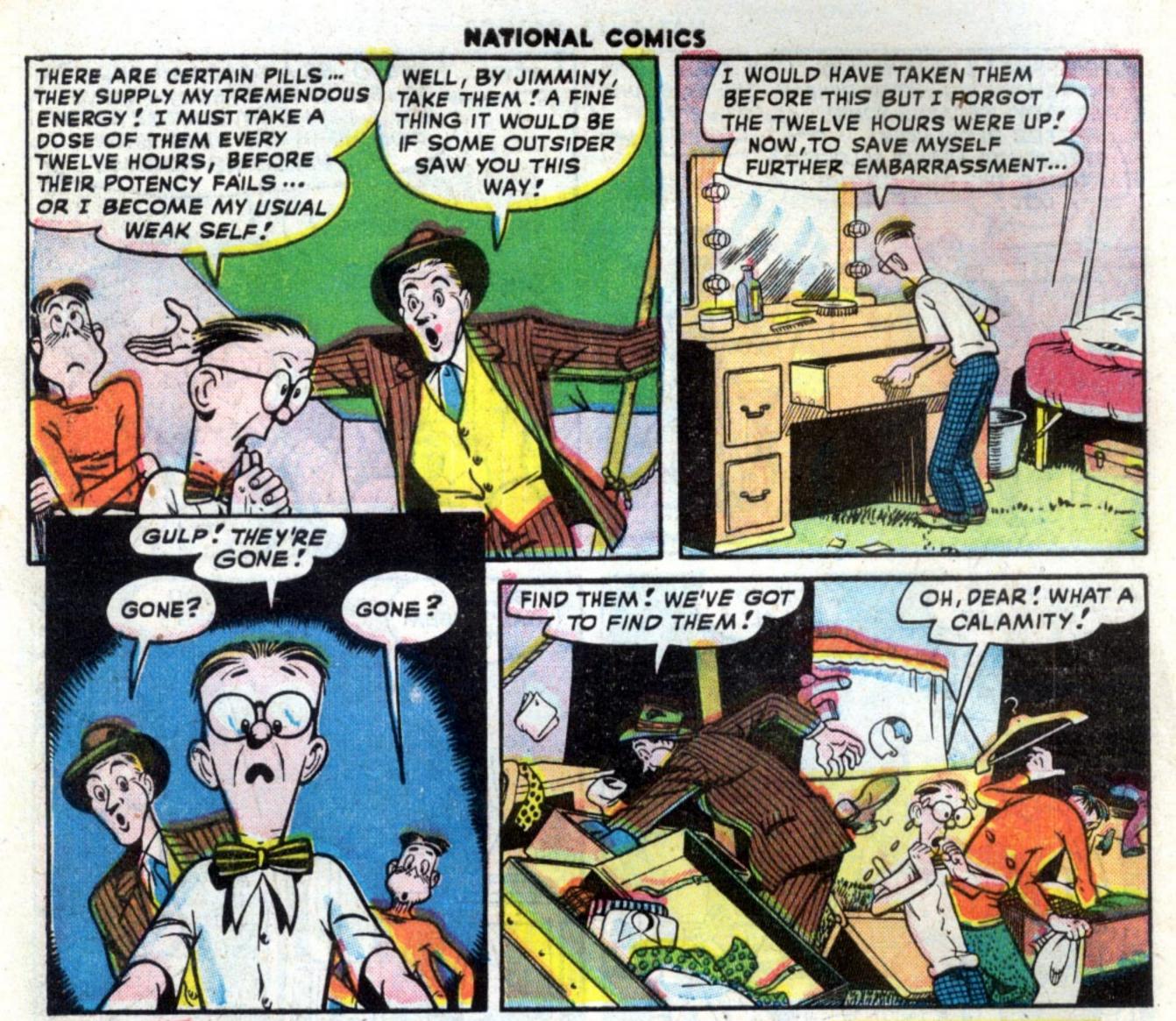










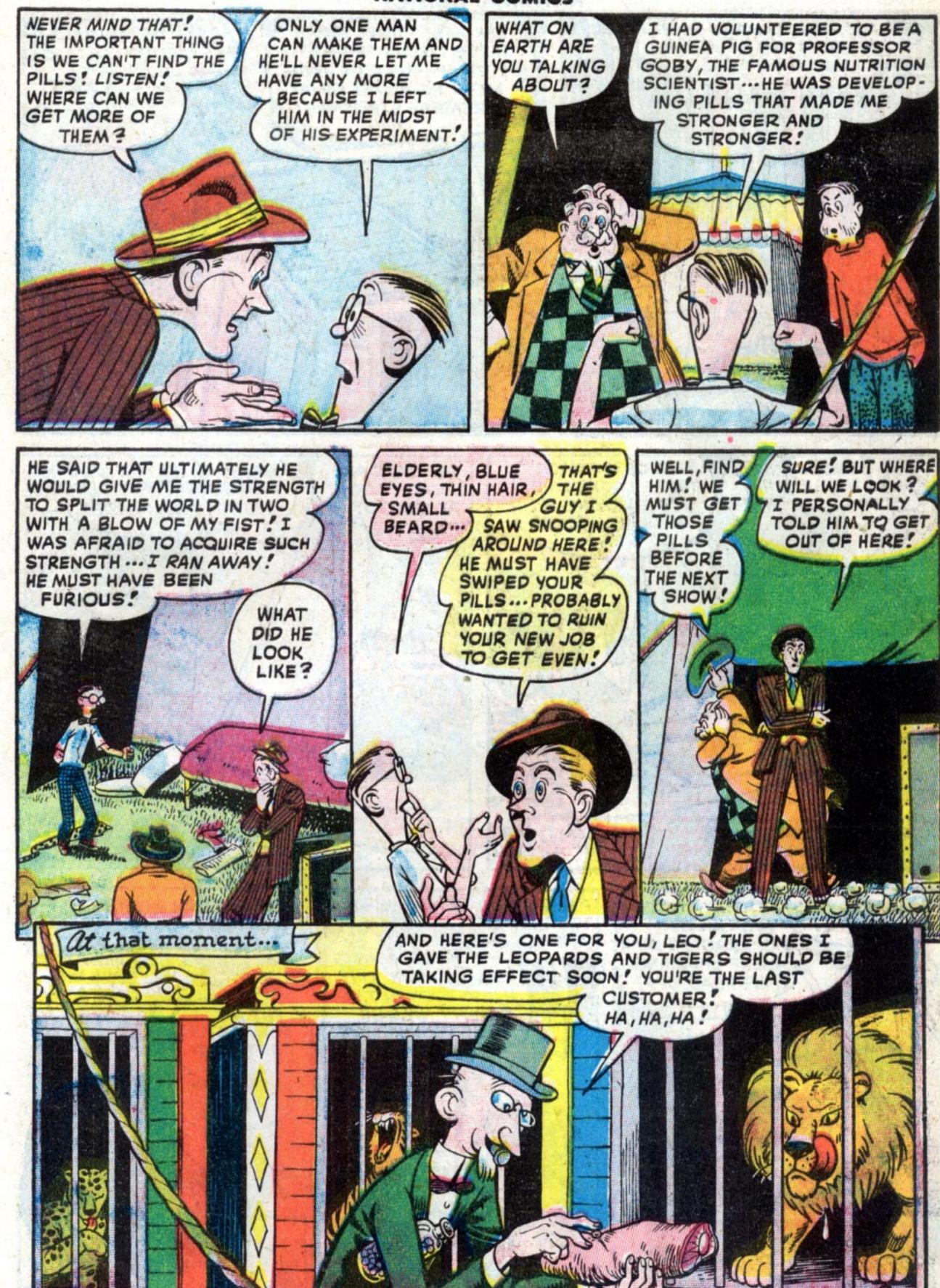




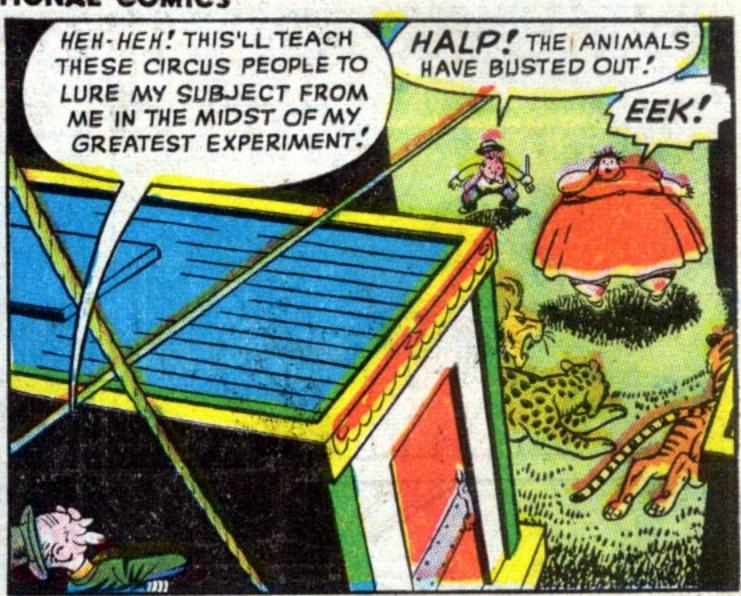


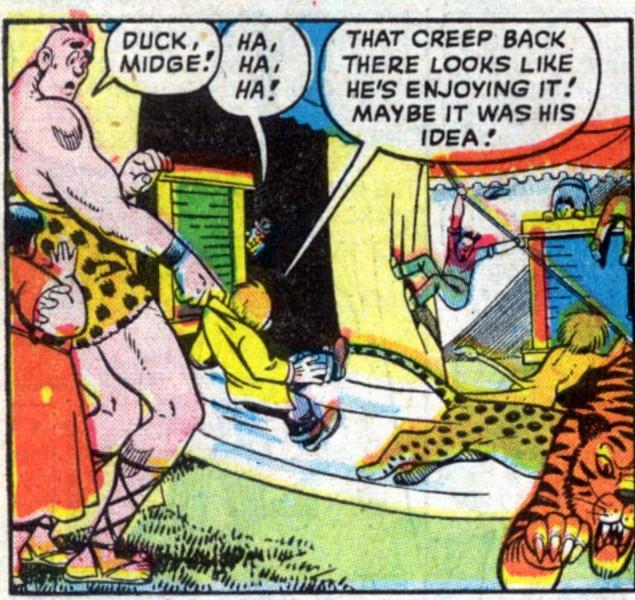
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE
GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH
A CIRCUS IN THE FIRST
PLACE, BUT AFTER YEARS
OF BEING KNOWN AS A
WEAKLING I COULDN'T
RESIST THE TEMPTATION
TO SHOW OFF WHEN I
SAW YOUR STRONG
MAN PERFORM!

















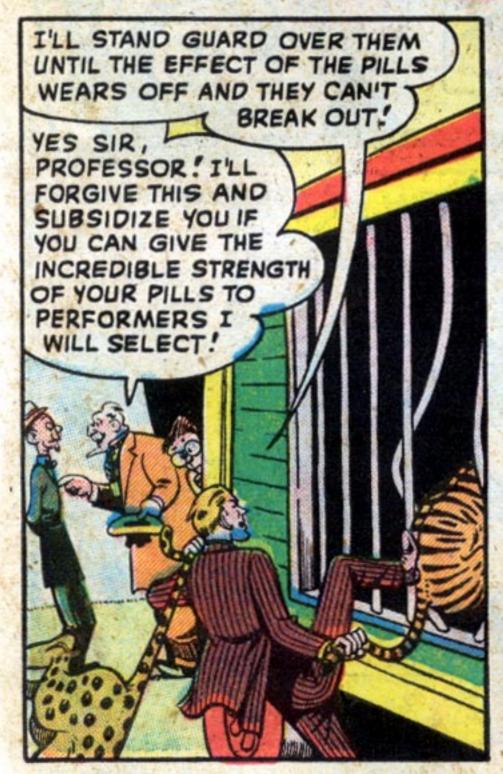








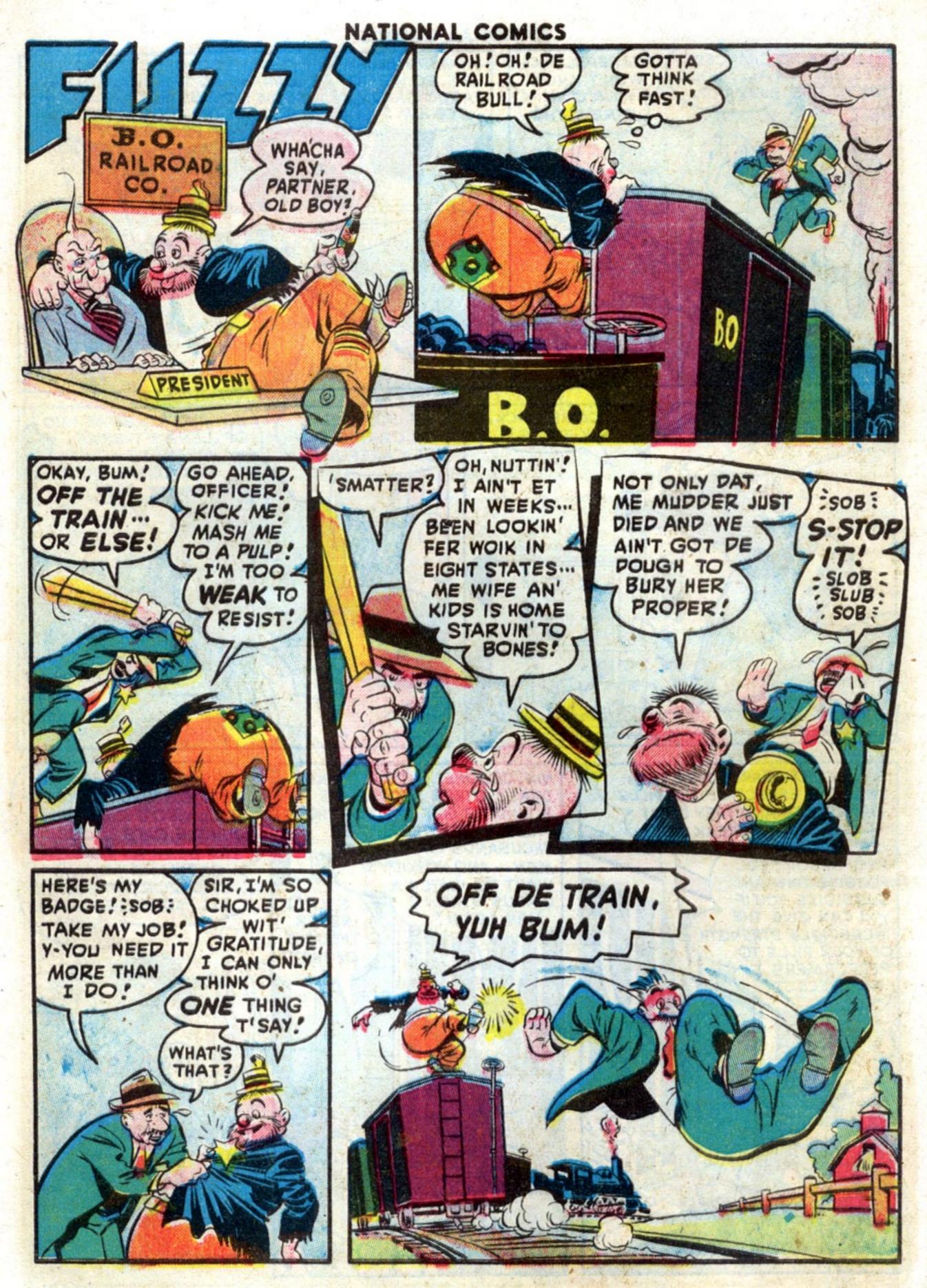




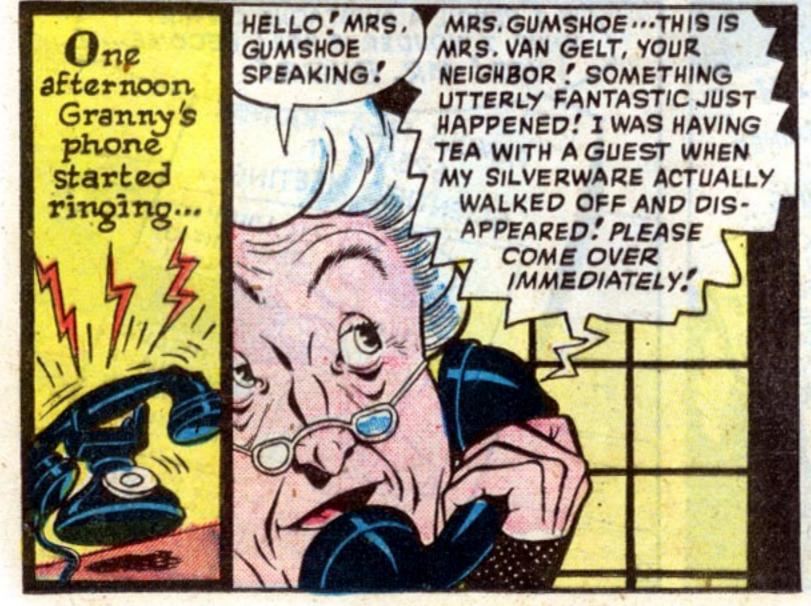


BESIDES, IN DEALING
WITH THE KIND OF SCREWBALL WHO'D TURN WILD
JUNGLE CATS LOOSE,
IT'S BEST TO HAVE
COPS AND ASYLUM
ORDERLIES PRESENT!
I'LL PHONE THE COPPERS
NOW!



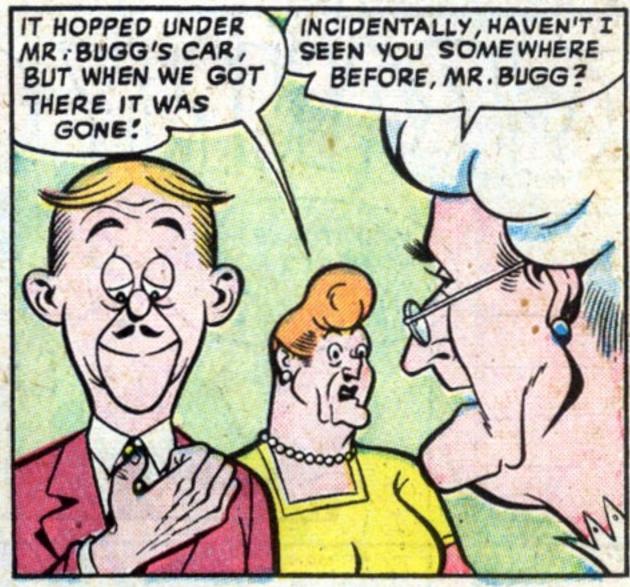








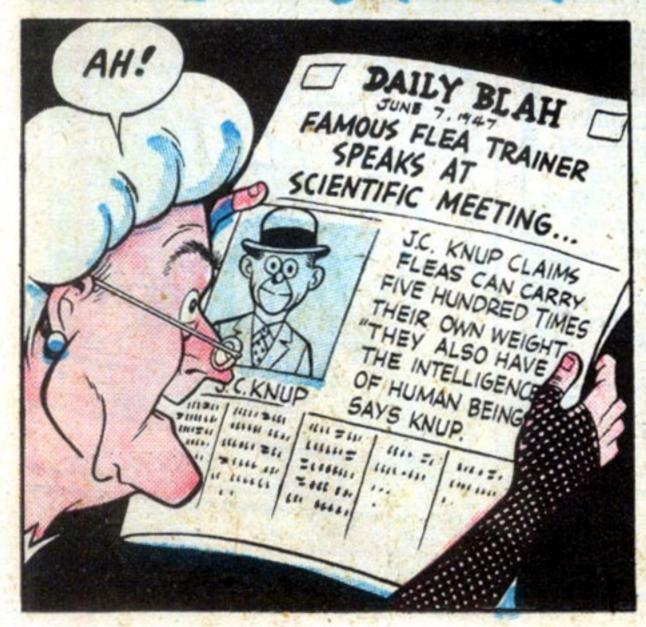


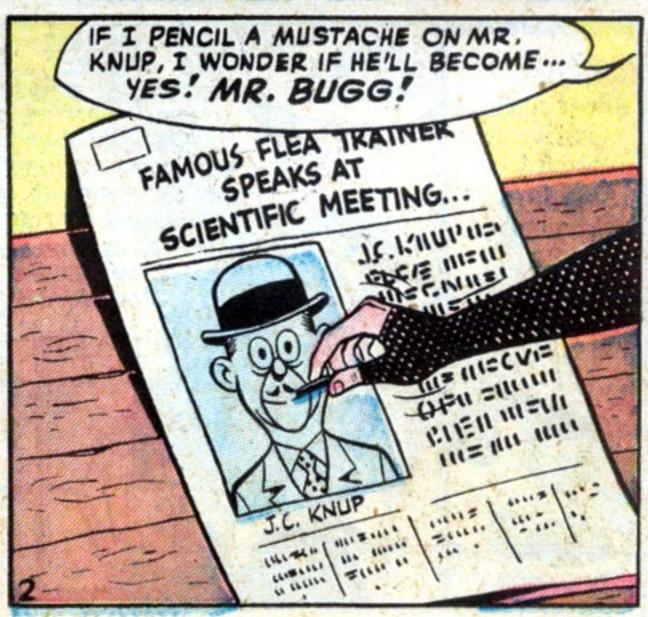


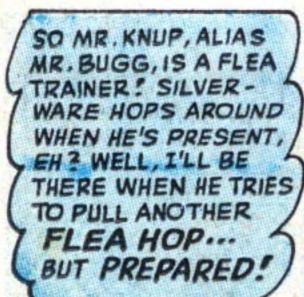


Back
home,
Granny
rummages
through
the old
newspapers
in her
attic...





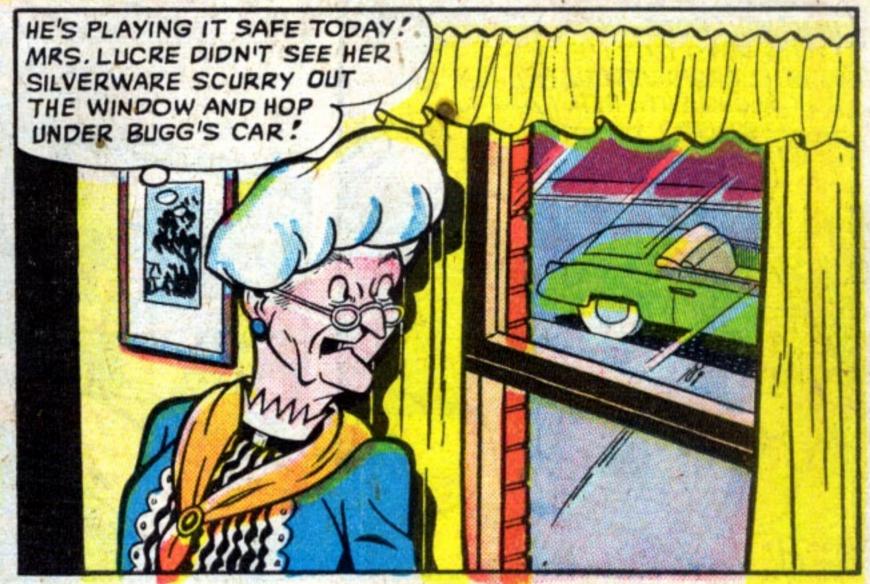








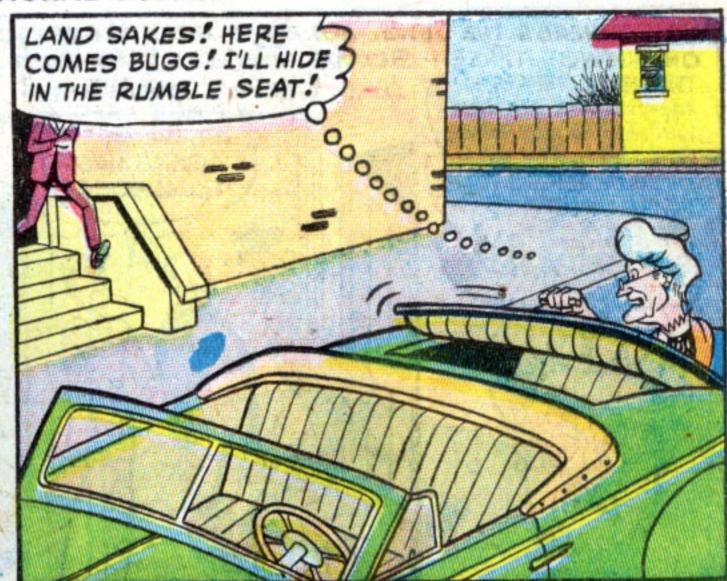


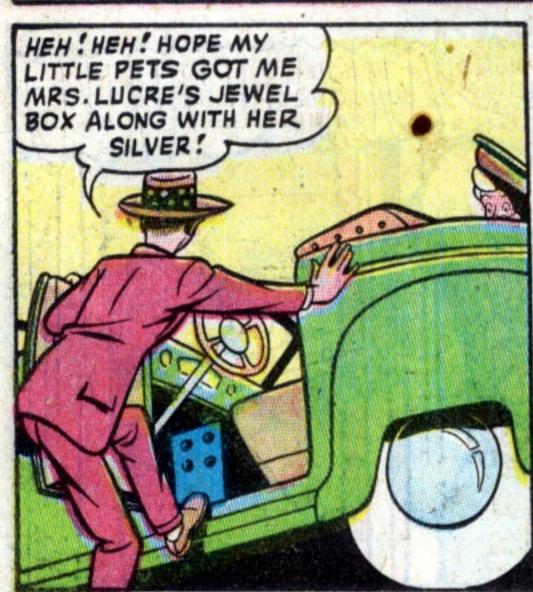




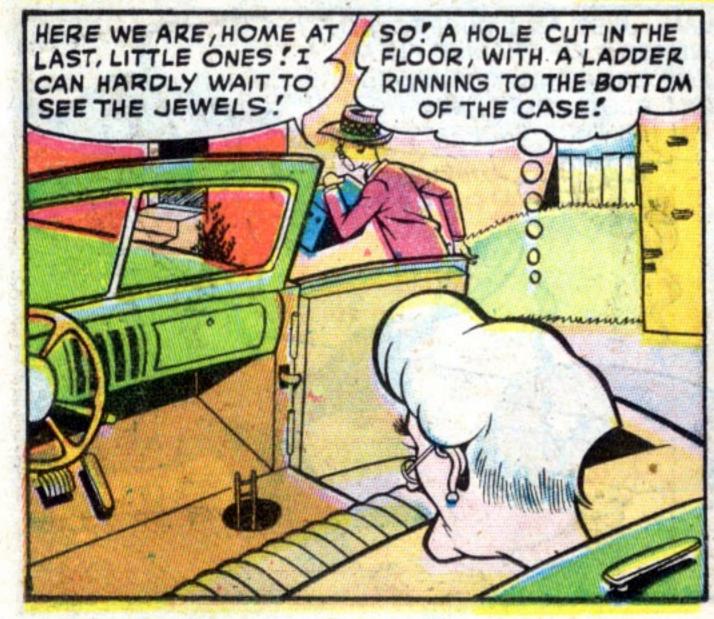


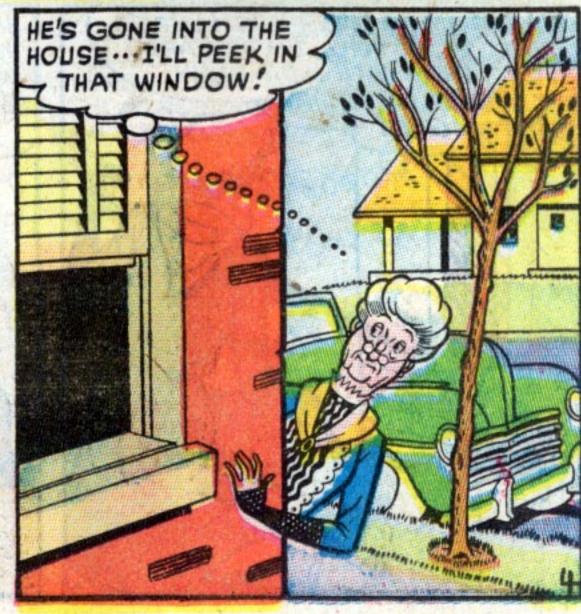


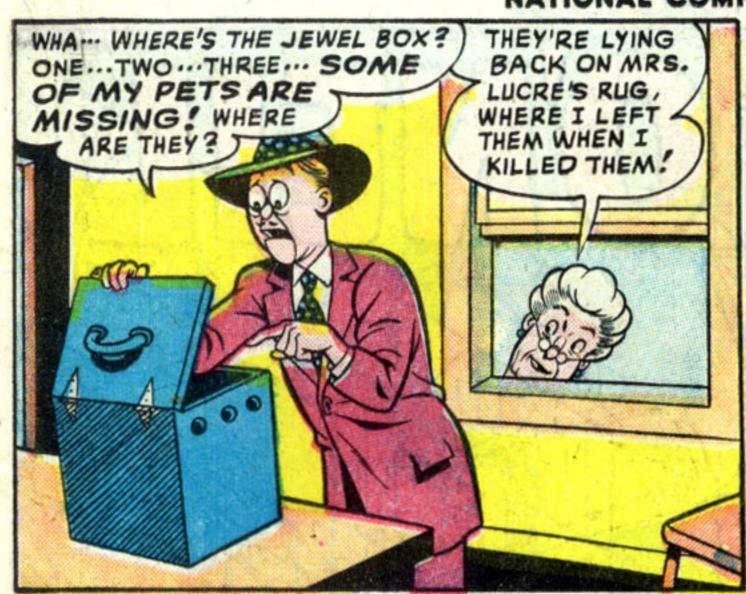






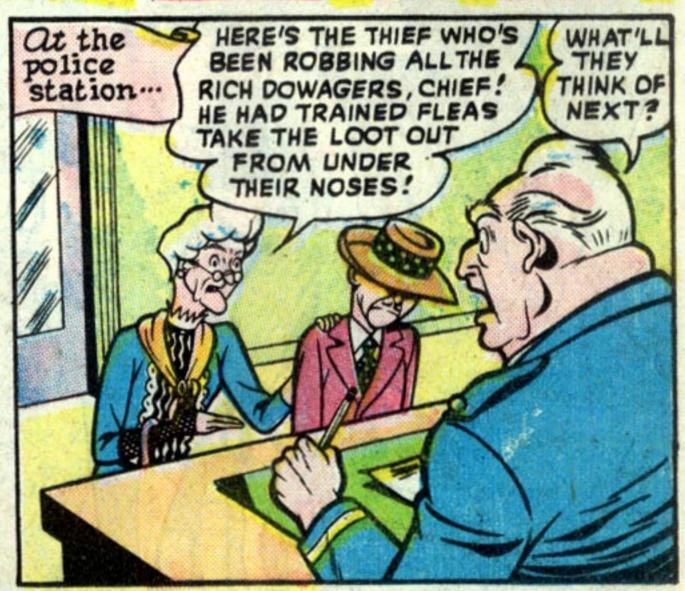


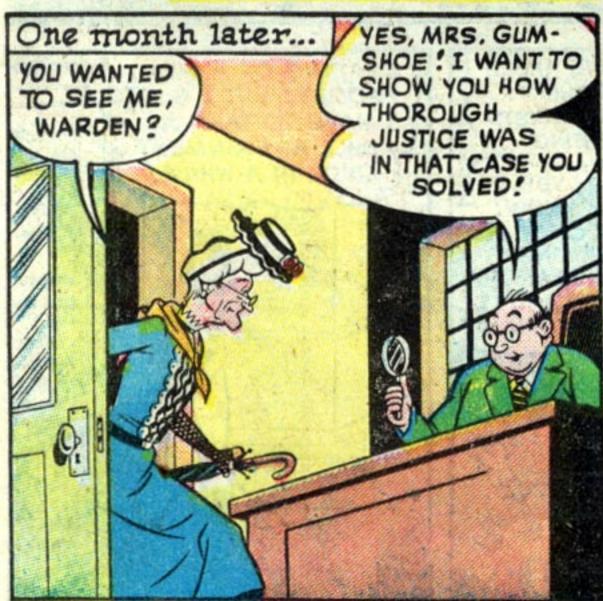


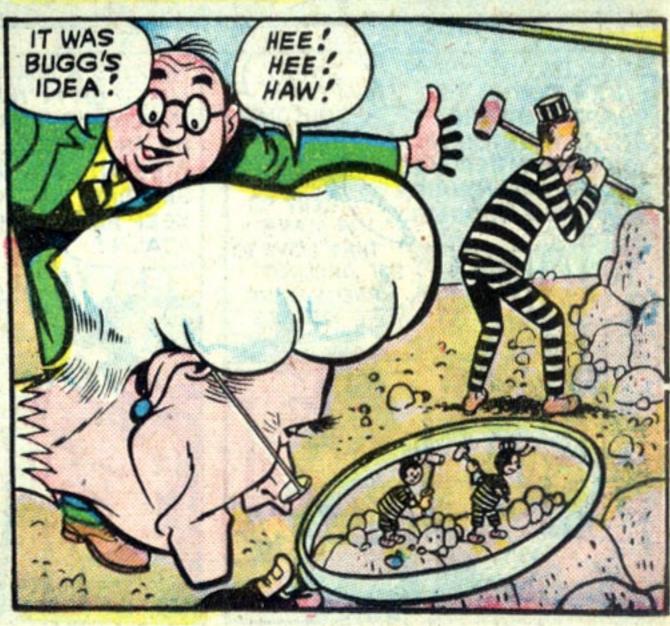










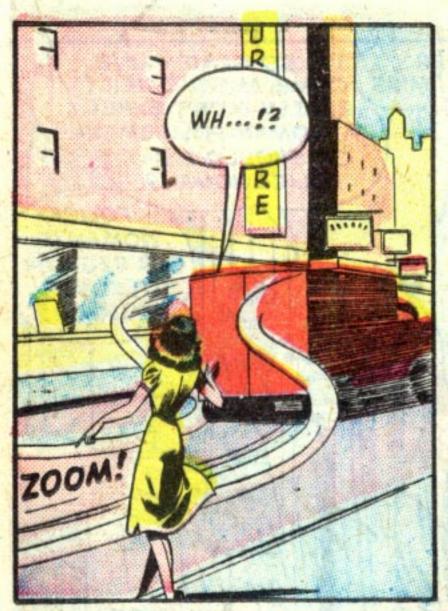














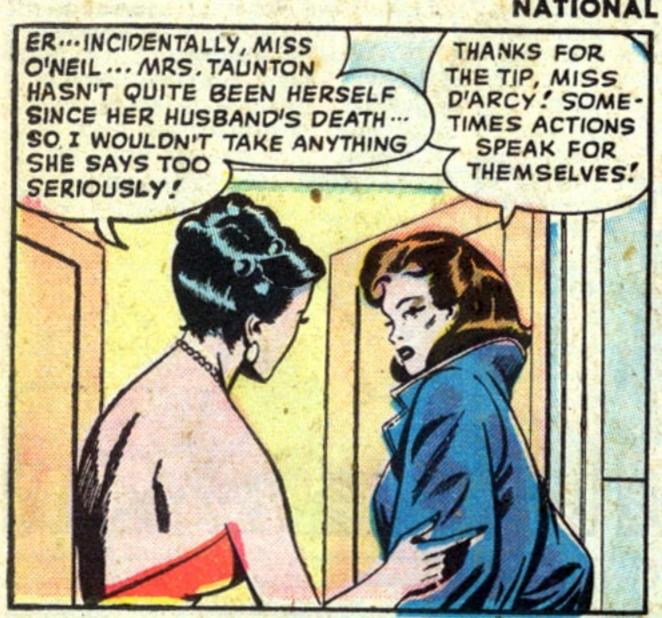












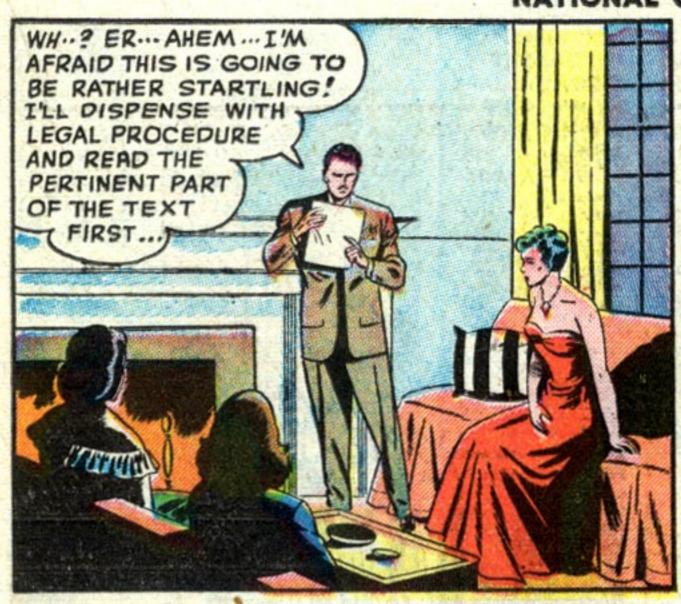






















THE WHOLE THING SOUNDS



















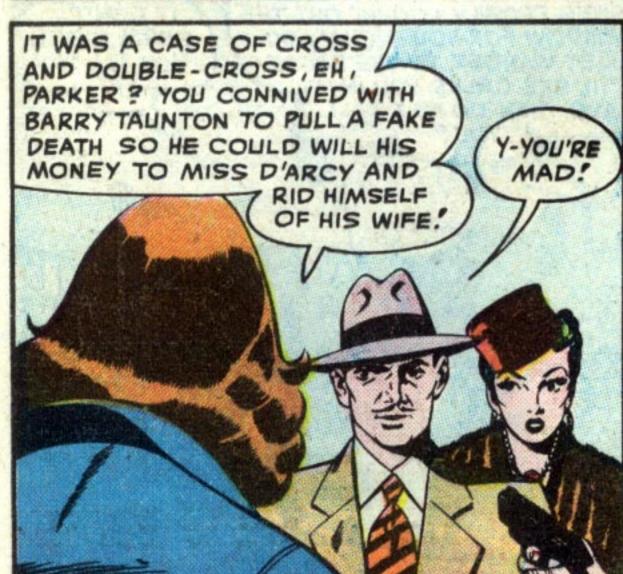


NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, CAPTAIN! SEND SOME MEN TO TAUNTON TOWERS ... AND ORDER ANOTHER TO MEET ME AT THE PANCROSS AIRPORT IN EXACTLY TEN MINUTES!



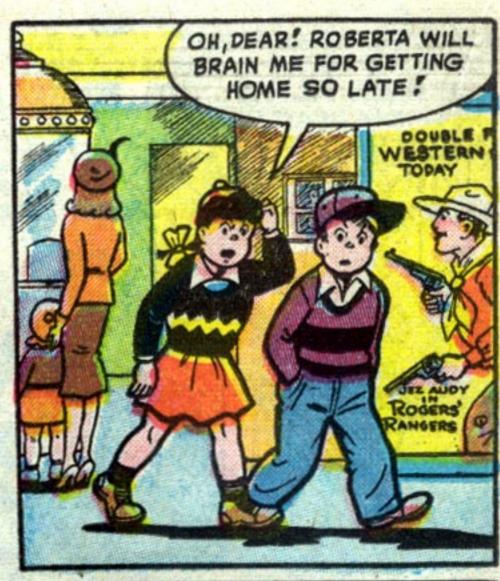










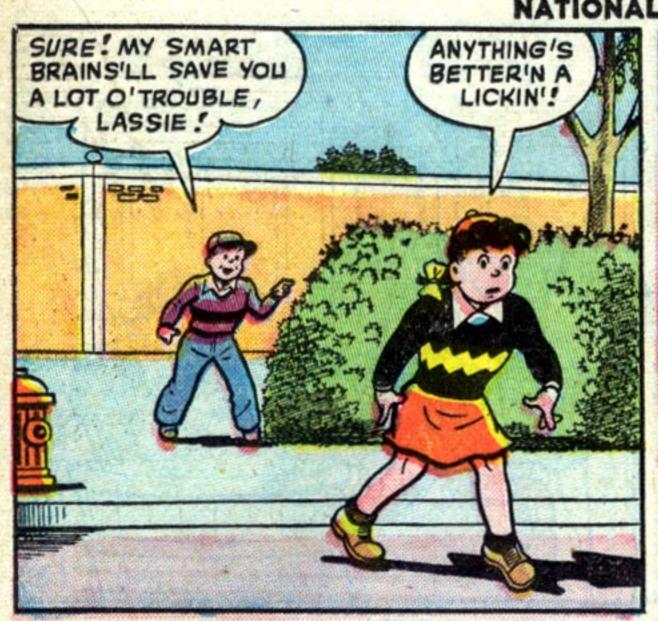






















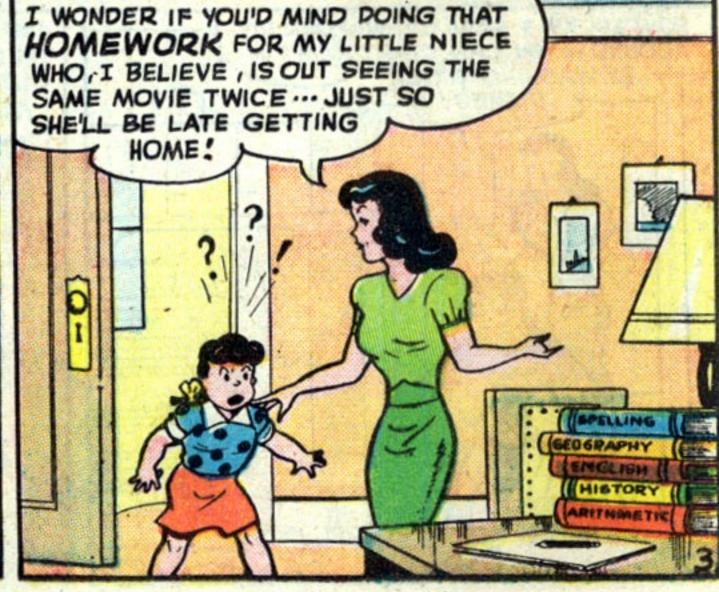








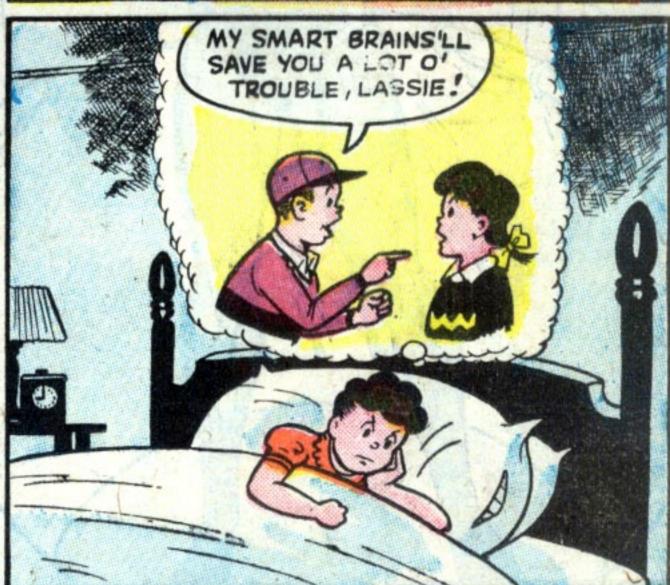






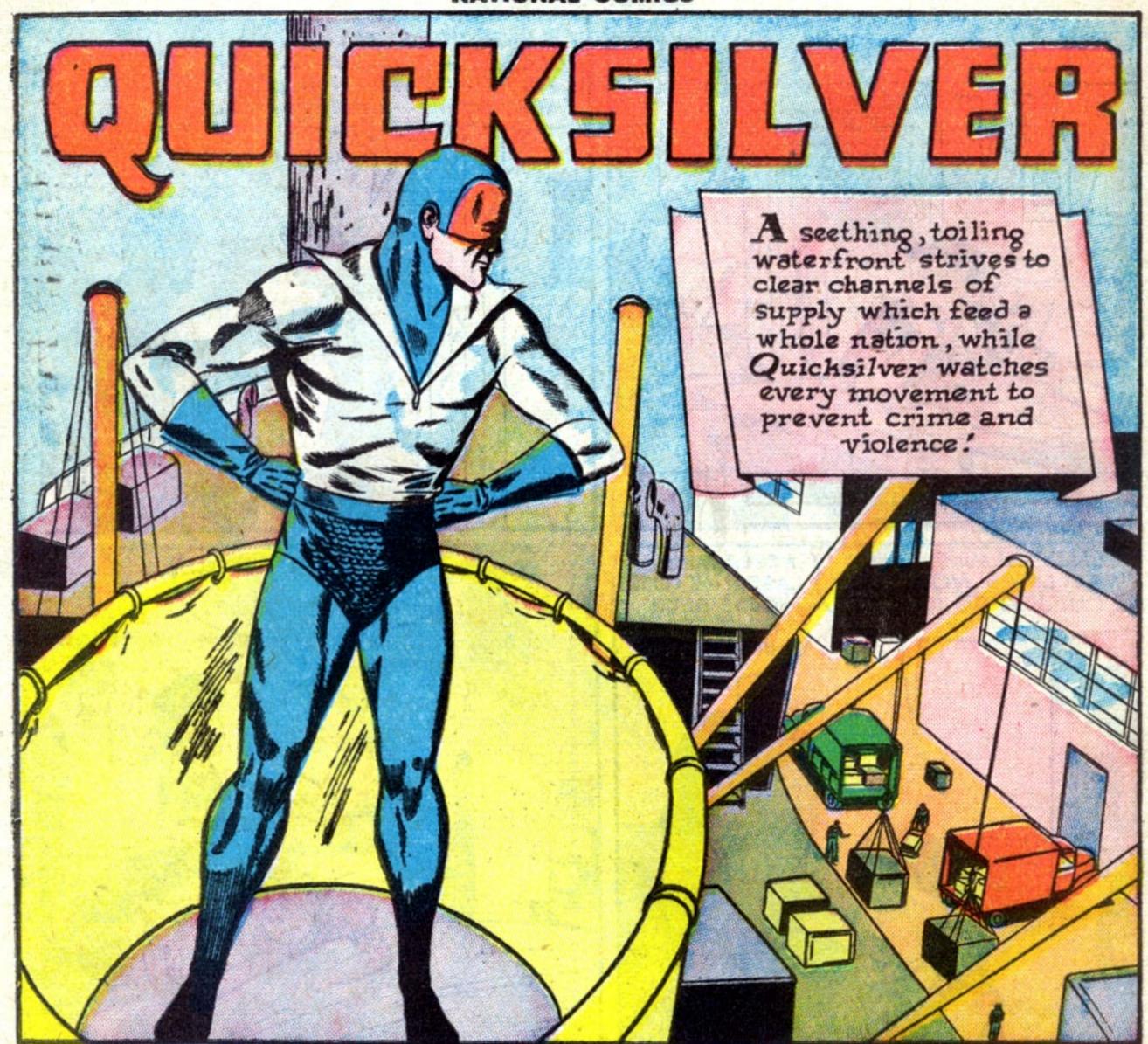




























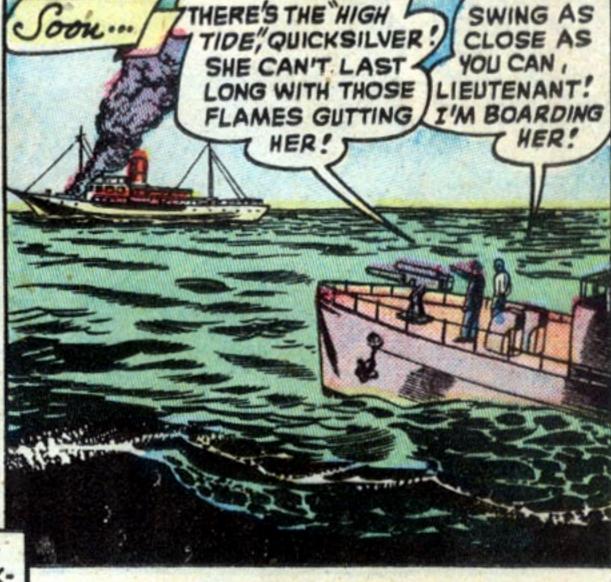


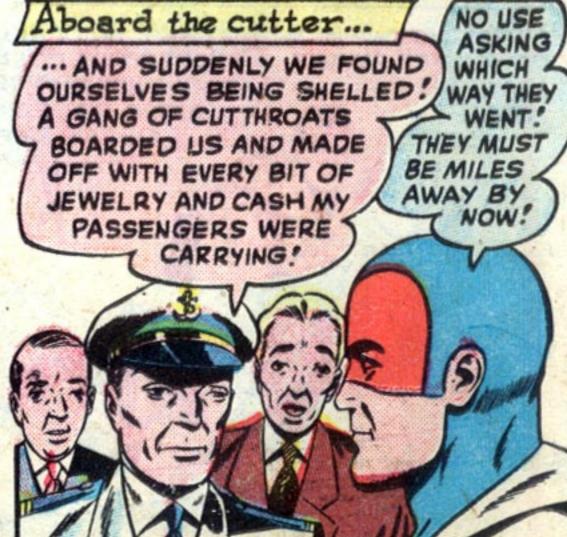














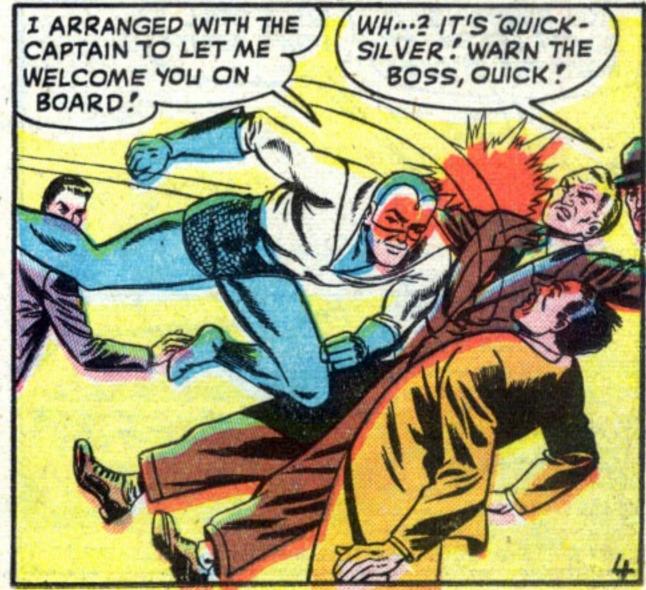


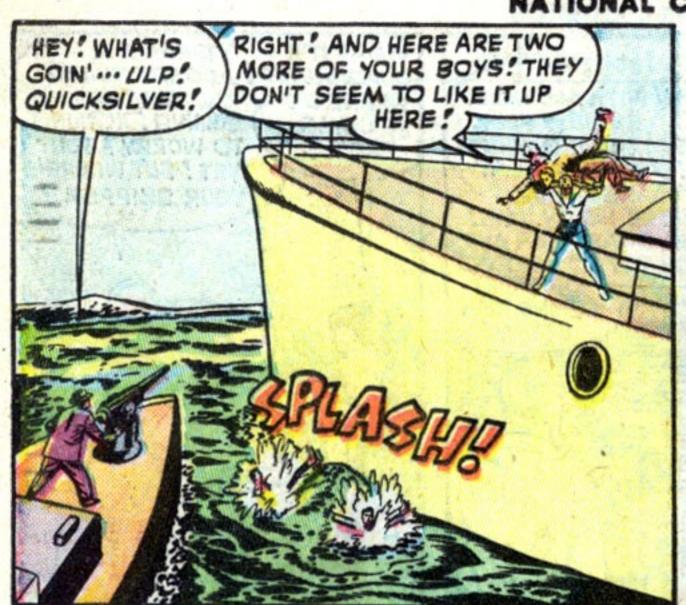




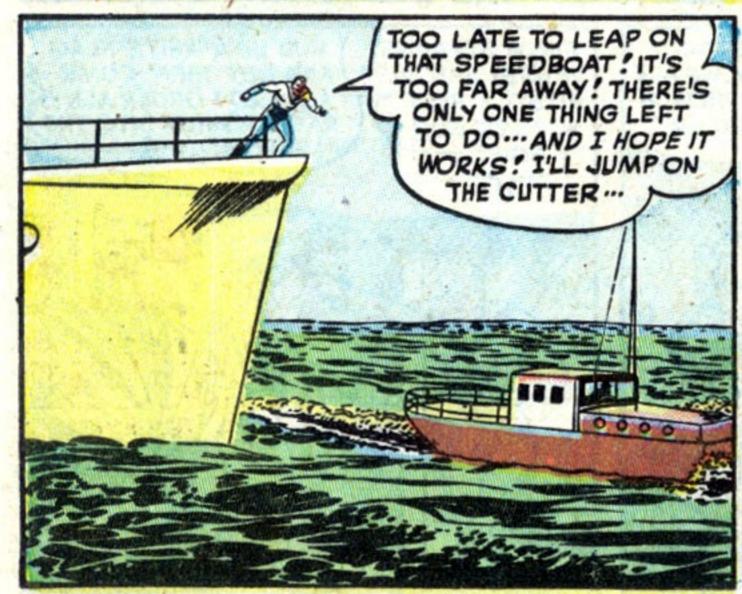




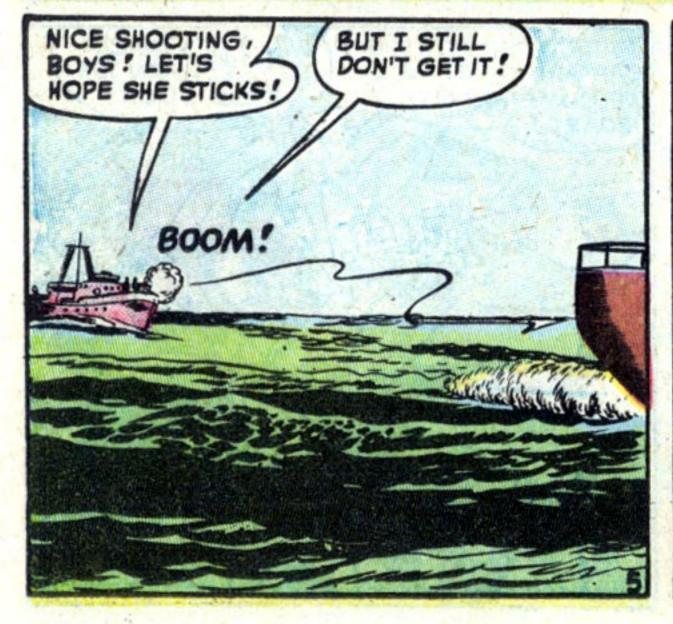






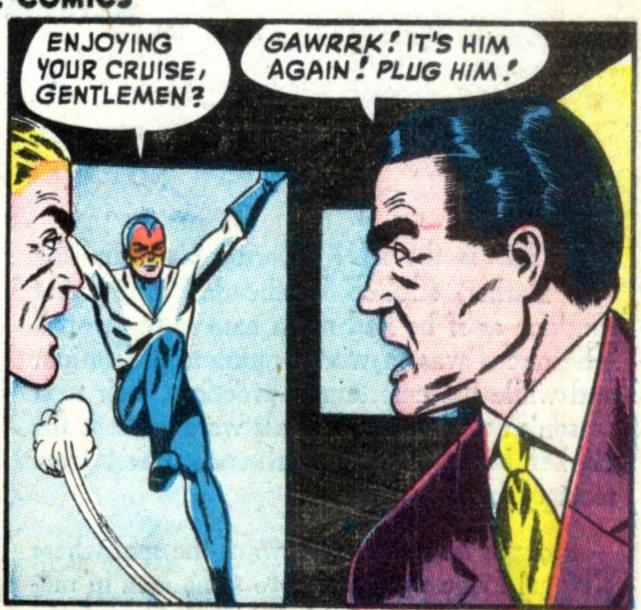




















All that Calities

Barker, strolled bareheaded in the hot sunshine as if he had not a care in the world. The circus was in winter quarters in Florida, and while the entertainers practiced their next season's acts and the animals were trained, the Barker himself had a well-earned rest from most of his activities.

Now as he sauntered toward the spot where Colonel Lane was talking to some men in uniform, he gave a perfect impersonation of the laziest man in the world. Even the sight of the police chief of the small Florida town didn't arouse his curiosity, though he could see from the Colonel's red face and the bristling of his white mustache that the Colonel was excited.

"Sir," said the Colonel haughtily. "I'm not only insulted—I'm hurt! Me and my people have been coming here for years as you well know... and now just because some rich guy's jewels are stolen, where do you come first? To the circus!"

"Now take it easy, Colonel Lane!" protested the Chief. "In the first place I didn't
come to the circus first—not by a long shot! In
the second place, like I keep telling you if
you'd only listen, it's just a matter of routine!
Why, I know you, Colonel. I'd trust you anywhere. But this Bandervilt's an important guy
and he's throwing his weight around. I just had
to come to you as a matter of form, to ask you
if you'll vouch for all your people. And if
you do, that's all there is to it!"

"Vouch for 'em?" roared the Colonel.
"Certainly I'll vouch for 'em. You don't think
I'd hire jewel thieves to work for me, do you?"

"That's fine, Colonel," said the Chief, mopping his brow. "That's all I want to know. Thank you!"

He and his men disappeared hastily and the Colonel turned to the Barker. "That millionaire with an estate next to our grounds had

"So of course the first thing he thought of was that Colonel Lane's Mammoth Circus had a winter home next door. As if circus people were crooks!"

"Well," said Carnie, "we do pick up some queer characters once in a while—but I agree with you that our regular people are honest as the day is long." He stood thoughtfully for a moment. "However..." he nodded his head at a couple who were just going into the rehearsal tent.

"Say!" the Colonel exclaimed. "I was so excited, I forgot that we had two newcomers. But it's not fair to suspect them just because they haven't been with us long."

"No," said the Barker, "but you don't want to make a mistake. It would put you in a spot, having given your word that none of the circus people could have committed the robbery."

"Tell you what . . . " said the Colonel decisively. "I wouldn't have the police going through things and upsetting everybody. But you make a search of everybody's belongings. You can do it on the quiet—nobody needs to know about it at all. Then that'll keep us in the clear."

Though the Barker didn't relish the idea of poking into other people's belongings, he had to admit that it was a good idea. Picking times when the performers were out of their tents, he searched their things skillfully and thoroughly, leaving each spot in an undisturbed condition as he had found it. He found many jewels, but all of the paste variety used to ornament and enhance the various custumes.

Later, feeling that he had done his duty, he went back to the main tent to watch the rehearsals in progress. He was curious about the new couple and anxious to see them perform. They'd joined the show a week ago but strangely enough no one, not even the Colonel,

had watched their act. They talked a good show, and that's why they were getting a chance. They had come along at the psychological moment when Colonel Lane was trying to find something new to give the customers next season. They couldn't give a demonstration, they said, because Madame Villairs was recovering from a sprained ankle. The Daring Villairs, they were billed, and they had persuaded the Colonel to let them stay at least until they were able to show him what they could do.

At least they were willing to work, Carnie had to admit. Instead of killing time, they had appeared in costume each day to stand around the big tent. But he was anxious to see them in action. Now as he looked around, he saw Madame Villairs in her bouffant skirt heavy with colorful jewels, a jeweled girdle clasped about her waist. She stood beside her husband, talking animatedly.

She moved forward, limping slightly, and the Barker's eyes narrowed. Funny . . . he felt sure he had seen her limp on her right foot, but today it seemed to be the left one she favored. He looked more closely, then shook his head. Must be his imagination playing tricks. After all, she should know which ankle was injured.

The Barker turned at the sound of heavy footsteps. Colonel Lane was approaching the big tent, and with him once more were the police chief and some of his men. The faces of all of them were stern, and Carnie knew at one glance that there was trouble ahead.

The Barker moved to meet them at the tent entrance. "Come on," the Colonel said to him without stopping, so Carnie trailed the group as it moved into the center of the big area.

"Laa-dies and gentlemen!" shouted the Colonel. Everyone in the tent gave him immediate attention. Those members of the circus who were not there were sent for, by the Colonel's orders. A feeling of impending trouble spread quickly through the crowd and they waited breathlessly for the Colonel to speak.

Quickly the Colonel explained. First he told them the story Carnie had already heard, of the jewel theft. He told about the first visit of the police, and how he had vouched for the circus people and the police chief had accepted his word.

"But now," he continued, "the police are back again. They've done more investigating—and every clue they've uncovered leads toward the circus. One of the thieves set off a burglar alarm accidentally. Immediately a search was started and the exits blocked. The only way in which an escape could have been made was into the circus quarters. The evidence is conclusive. There's nothing left for me to do but admit I was wrong, and let the police take over."

Silence greeted the Colonel's words. The circus people stared at each other in dismay. Thieves in their midst! Instinctively the glances came to rest on the two strangers, Madame and Monsieur Villairs. Carnie, too, looked at the Villairs, but he shook his head. Even if they were the thieves, he couldn't see how it could be proved. He'd searched their things carefully without discovering the loot, and certainly their brief costumes left no place for concealing bulky jewels.

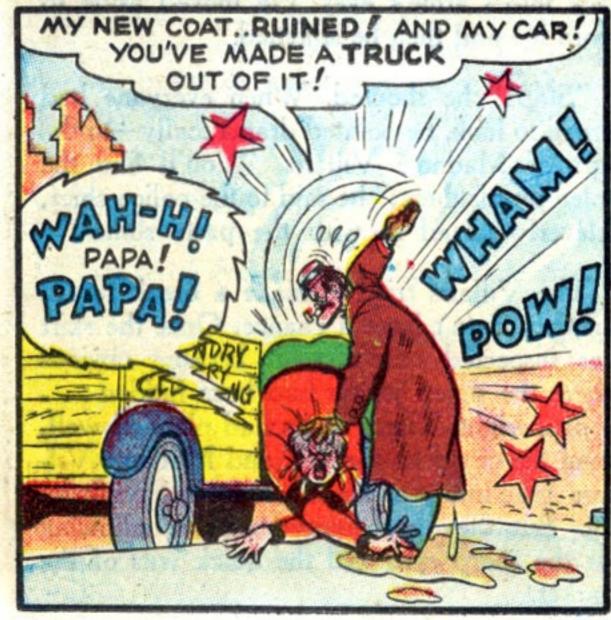
The police had taken over and were questioning the people individually, taking down names. The scene was highlighted by the late afternoon sun, which pushed like a searchlight through the open entrance. It sparkled on Madame Villairs' jeweled skirt and reflected back into Carnie's eyes. He moved aside to avoid it—and then he stiffened.

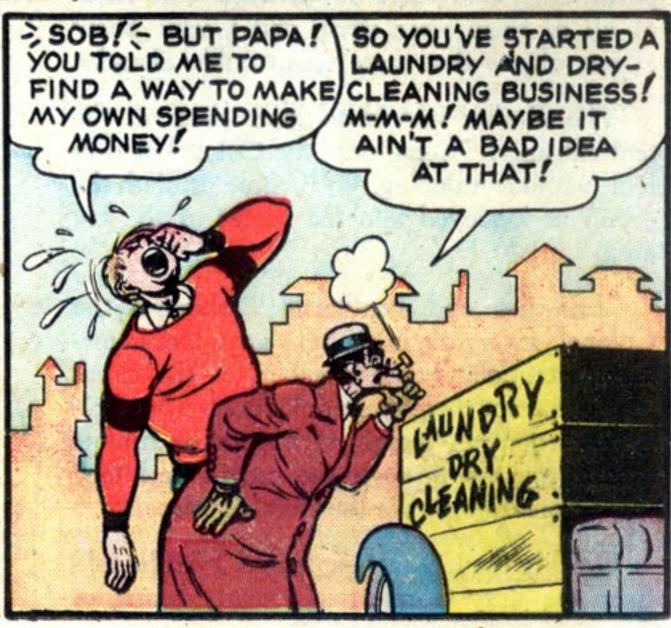
"Stop!" he shouted. When everyone had turned to look, he pointed dramatically—to the skirt of Madame Villairs. "You'll find the stolen jewels there," he said to the police chief, "cleverly mixed in with the paste stones."

The Villairs tried to make a break for it, but they didn't have a chance. Once the skirt was inspected carefully, it became obvious where the stolen jewels had been hidden . . . in plain sight. The Villairs had planned well, using the circus as a cover, and Madame Villairs' fake injury as an excuse for not performing. But they had figured without allowing for the sharp eyes and the quick wits of the Barker.

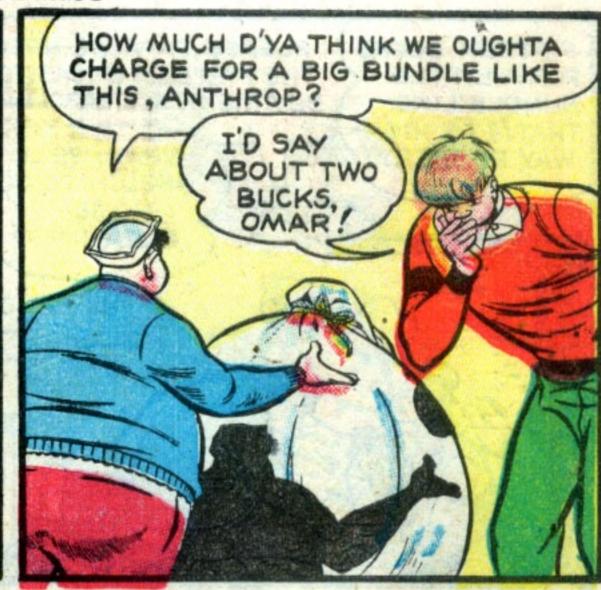








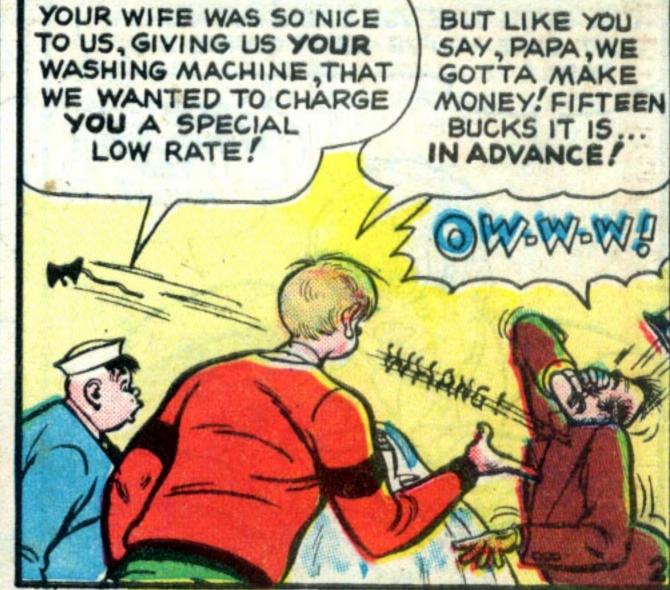




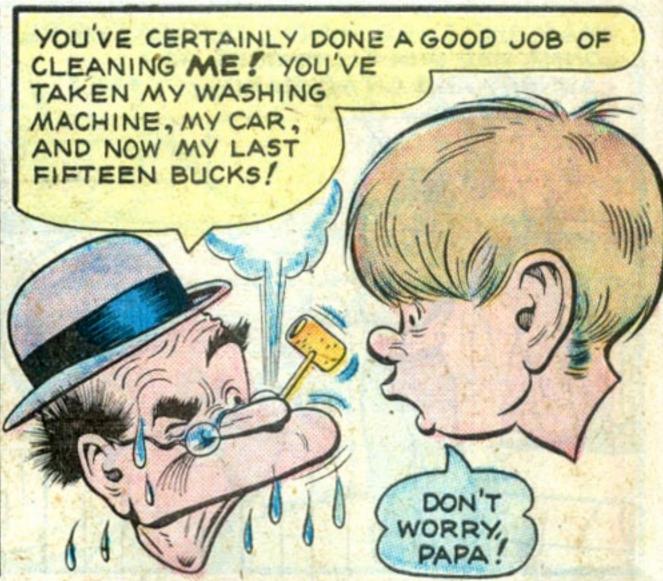


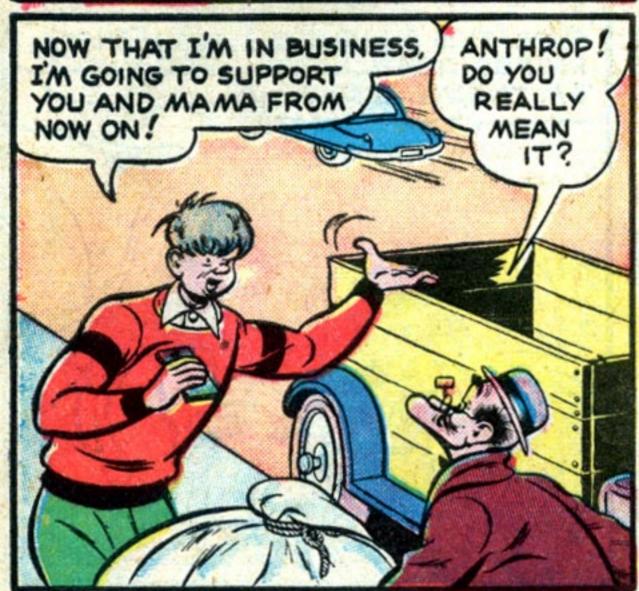


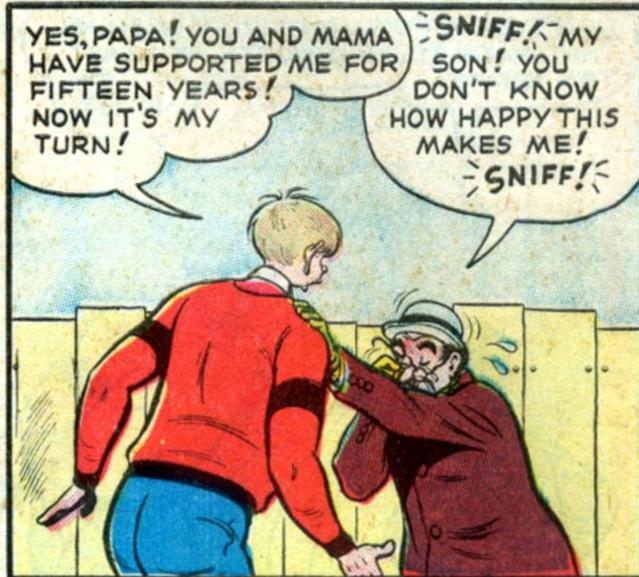






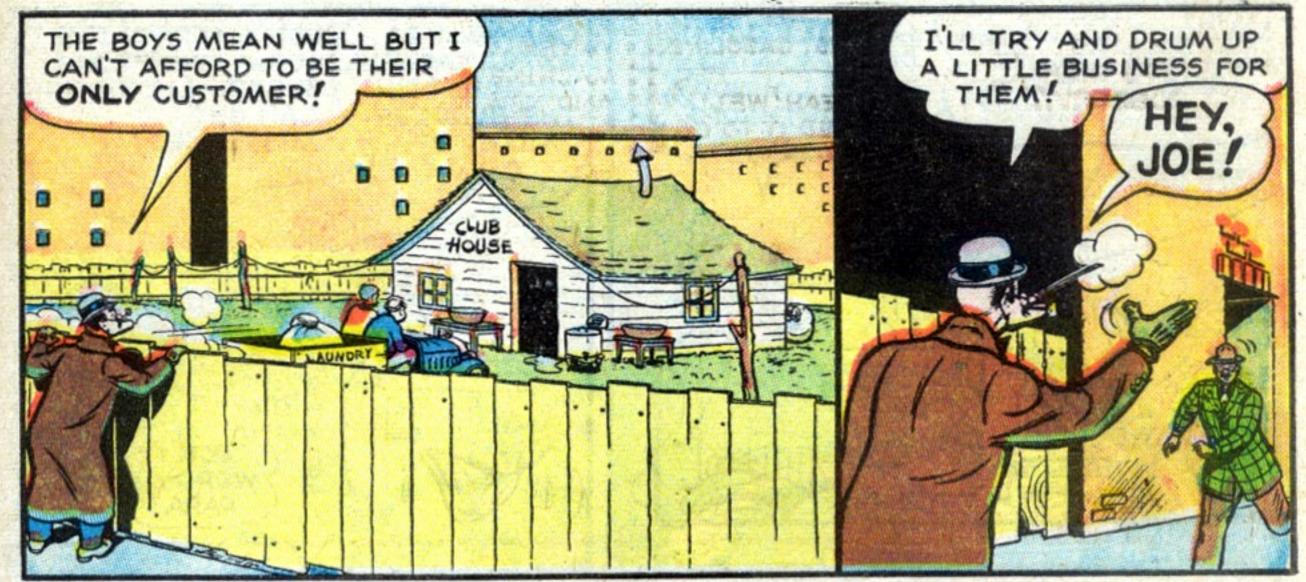


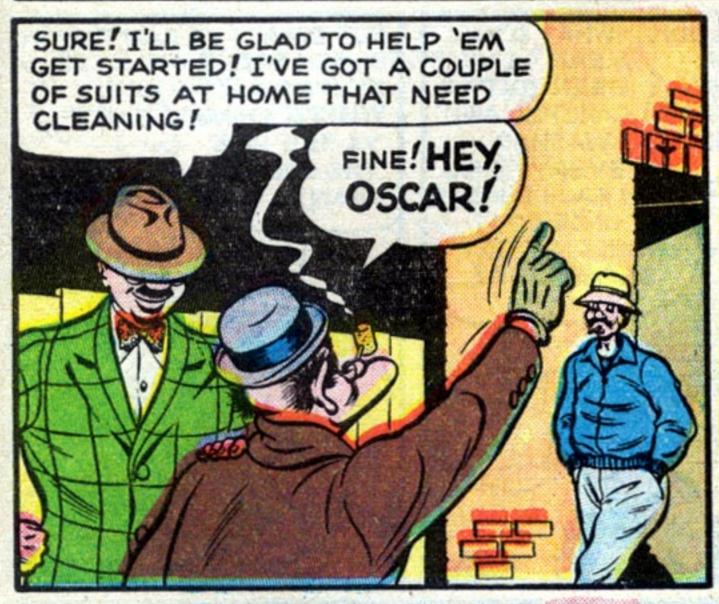






















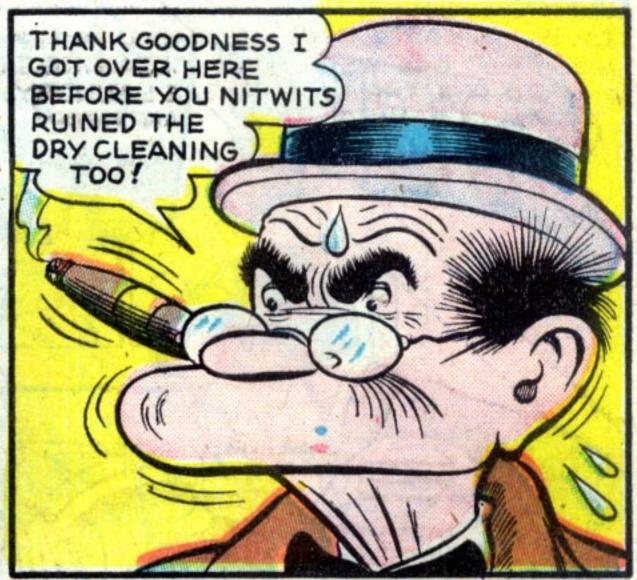








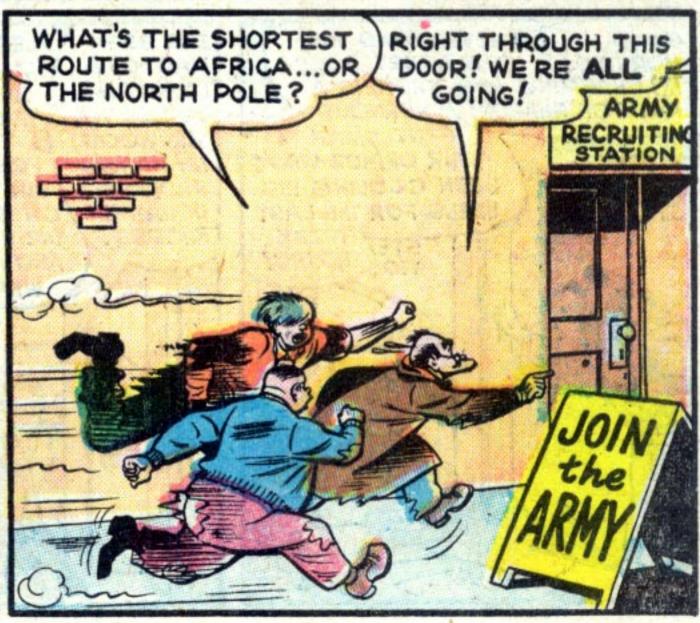






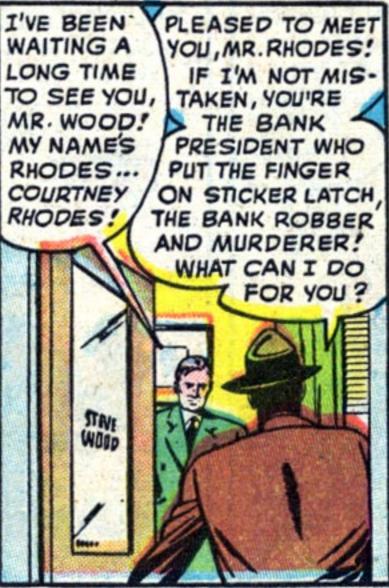








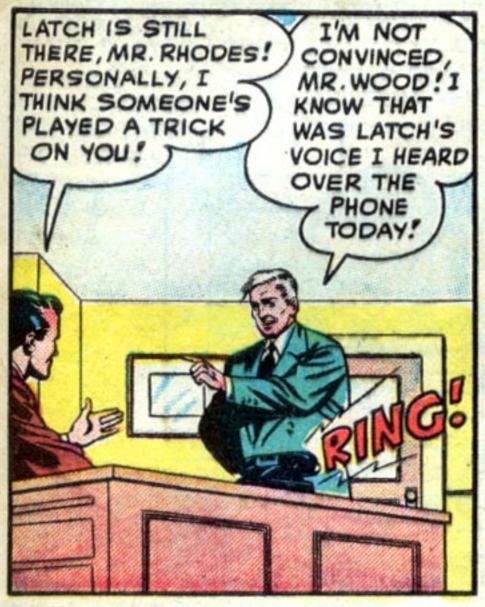




















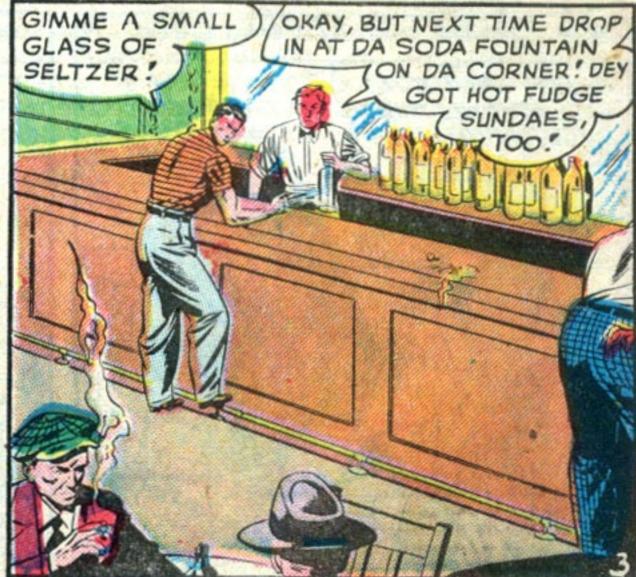










































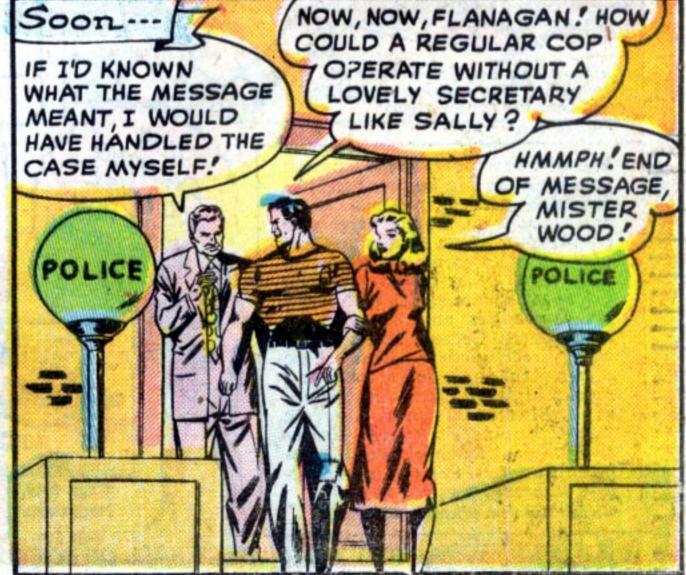




















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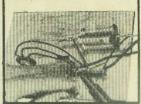
YOU PRACTICE Radio soldering, mounting, con-necting with soldering equipment and Radio parts



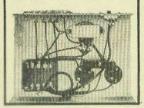
YOU BUILD this Tester that soon helps you EARN EXTRA MONEY fixing neighbors Radios in spare



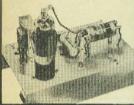
YOU BUILD special Radio Circuits like this with parts I send. Learn how to locate and repair defective circuits.



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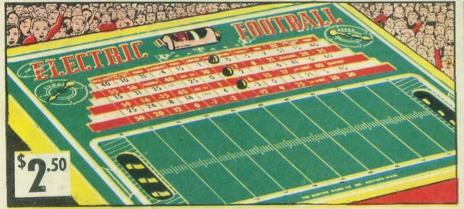
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